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Mr. Jeff Johnson
AARP Florida State Director
400 Carillon Parkway, Suite 100
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Re: Age Friendly Cities and Communities Initiatives

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of the City of Fort Lauderdale City Commission, I am honored to submit this letter of support for our City to be considered for admission into the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiatives. Our city recognizes the importance of planning for our future through policies addressing our aging population, supporting their active and independent lifestyles, and continual improvement to ensure the aging community has access to necessary services. We understand that our residents are living longer and require a suitable environment in which they can age safely and with purpose.

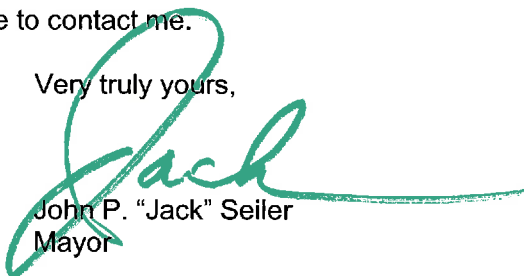
In 2013, the City Commission adopted a Vision Plan that incorporated 15,000 responses from residents focusing on the priorities that mattered most to them. Using input from residents and community members the city formed a common mission, "We Build Community". The Vision plan incorporates 12 aspirational goals, 38 objectives, 191 strategic initiatives, and 142 performance indicator targets. Many of the initiatives in this plan support all of the areas within AARP and the WHO eight domains of livability.

Our partnerships are strong in the community with organizations that provide services to seniors. In 2015, the City developed and implemented Club 55. Services of Club 55 provide adults aged 55 and older the opportunity to engage in a vast array of programs and services. Club 55 also works with community partnerships such as the Urban League, Communities of Promise, Broward Health and the YMCA and others in order to provide an encompassing community program. These partnerships and programs address 4 domains of age friendly, livable communities including social participation, respect and social inclusion, community and information, community and health services along with civic participation and employment.

I look forward to working with the AARP State Office, its members and volunteers, and other stakeholders to create an advisory committee and plan of action that responds to the needs in our community. I have no doubt that the City of Fort Lauderdale can be a shining example of Age-Friendliness.

If my office can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,


John P. "Jack" Seiler
Mayor