



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Bucoda Warren, Senior Management Fellow, City Manager’s Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Resolution expressing the City of Tacoma’s commitment to being a more age-friendly city under the criteria established by the World Health Organization and the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities** – Requested for July 30, 2019
DATE: July 10, 2019

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this memo is to pursue the World Health Organization’s Age Friendly Community designation through the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, and direct the City Manager to take the steps necessary for that designation. The activities and measures suggested by AARP to receive this designation are in alignment with Tacoma 2025 and can be seamlessly integrated with some additional benchmarking. For this reason, staff recommends pursuing this designation and integration into Tacoma 2025 strategic planning process. This item was brought to the attention of staff by Council Member Hunter and is being brought forward for consideration by the City Council to provide direction to staff.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Members: Hunter, Ibsen and Mello

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

This designation would align with Tacoma 2025 and address the follow strategic priorities;

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.

BACKGROUND:

According to *An Aging World*, a 2015 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, the percentage of the global population aged 60 years or over increased from 8.5 percent in 1980 to 12.3 percent in 2015, and is projected to rise further to 21.5 percent in 2050. This is supported by the Pew Research Center that estimates one in five US residents are expected to be aged 65 or over by mid-century.

To address the growing proportion of an older population, the World Health Organization and AARP in the United States, have created networks for cities to connect and pursue more age friendly communities. The World Health Organization Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide identifies core characteristics of an age-friendly city in Eight Domains of Livability: outdoor spaces and buildings; transportation; housing; social participation; respect and social inclusion; civic participation and employment; communication and information; and community support and health services.

ISSUE:

Although many cities and communities are increasingly engaging in age-friendly policies and programs, the older population continues to face problems of ageism that impact their quality of life. It is important that the City engage our aging population to include their voices in the direction of Tacoma.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could decide not to adopt this strategy and direct staff to involve older residents through other existing or newly developed means.



RECOMMENDATION:

The City of Tacoma should engage in a continuous improvement process to become a more age friendly city by aligning the domains of the World Health Organization’s eight domains of livability with Tacoma 2025 through a three-phase approach.

Phase 1: Planning (Years 1-2)

- Submit a letter of commitment to AARP, requesting designation as an age friendly city and community.
- Conduct a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the community.
- Engage and receive feedback from residents throughout the process.
- Identify indicators to monitor progress.
- Design an action plan to align assessment and additional outreach efforts to be included with the City’s *Tacoma 2025* focus, to improve the quality of life for the community.

Phase 2: Implementation (Years 3-5)

- Commit to incorporating age-friendly specific indicators and goals based on the assessment and outreach.
- Submit a progress report at the end of the five years which outlines progress against the baseline using the indicators developed in the action plan.

Phase 3: Continual Improvements (Year 5 and Beyond)

- Make continual Improvements through the Tacoma strategic plan indicators.
- Maintain membership as an age friendly City and community by submitting updates on progress made on regular intervals and receiving a positive assessment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact and data collection can be aligned with currently budgeted work. Future alignment with budgeted activities for 2025 will require no additional funding.