



**DATE:** October 18, 2016

**CATEGORY:** New Business

**DEPT.:** Community Services

**TITLE:** **Application to the World Health Organization to Designate Mountain View as an "Age-Friendly" City**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Adopt a Resolution in Support of Mountain View's Application to the World Health Organization for an "Age-Friendly" City Designation, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the Council report).
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support to the World Health Organization's "Age-Friendly" City designation.
3. Authorize the City Manager and Community Services Director to execute an application to the World Health Organization requesting Mountain View to be designated an "Age-Friendly" City.

### **BACKGROUND**

By 2030, it is expected that 27.6 percent of the global population will be over the age of 60, nearly double today's population. The Age-Friendly Cities Initiative was started by the World Health organization (WHO) in 2006. Through this initiative, the WHO promotes policies to enhance the lives of older adults in communities around the world, with a focus on eight domains which support the health and longevity of an aging population. Those eight domains of an Age-Friendly City include housing, transportation, communication and information, community support and health services, outdoor spaces and buildings, social participation, respect and social inclusion, and civic participation and employment. A community that considers the age of its constituents when developing policies, services, settings, and structures is able to support individuals as they grow older and allow for individuals to live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

In April 2011, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution in support of creating Santa Clara County as an Age-Friendly Community. Since that

time, the County, through the Department of Aging and Adult Services, has lead an effort for all the cities in the County to apply for an "Age-Friendly" City designation. The effort includes community surveys, resource identification, and gap analysis to determine unmet needs. In addition, there is ongoing outreach to provide community education and awareness related to the initiatives and issues faced by an aging population.

The County's goal is to encourage supportive policy development and secure adoption of the designation from all 15 cities in Santa Clara County, allowing the County to apply for an Age-Friendly Community designation. To date, cities in the County that have received the "Age-Friendly" designation include: Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Saratoga, and Morgan Hill. All of the remaining cities in the County are engaged in the "Age-Friendly" designation process or are committed to start in early 2017.

The Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) Fiscal Year 2016-17 Work Plan, approved by City Council at the September 6, 2016 meeting, identified applying to WHO for "Age-Friendly" City designation as a key milestone. The SAC has been championing the basic characteristics of an "Age-Friendly" City since being approved as a Council committee in 2009. Biannually, the SAC produces a report to Council, the *State of Seniors in Mountain View Report* (Attachment 2). This report discusses separately all of the WHO domains and what is happening in Mountain View to address the targets set by WHO. The last report was forwarded to Council in February 2016. This report will be used as a baseline for Mountain View moving forward as an "Age-Friendly City." As noted in the report, as of 2013, Mountain View had a total of 8,068 residents (or about 10.3 percent of the City population) aged 65 and over; 4,411 of whom were aged 65 to 74; 2,470 were 75 to 84; and 1,187 were 85 and over.

## **ANALYSIS**

The first step to becoming an "Age-Friendly" City is to apply to WHO. Applications are accepted twice a year, in May and November. With Council's approval, staff will apply during the November 2016 filing period. Once the application is accepted, staff will work with the SAC to establish an "Age-Friendly" City Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is envisioned to be made of up to eight (8) members. Members may include aging service professionals, seniors residing in Mountain View, and a maximum of one sitting SAC member. Once the Task Force is established, community focus groups will be conducted to assess the eight (8) domains identified by WHO and how a focus on one or more of the domains will support health and longevity in the aging population of Mountain View. The initial term of the Task Force will be five (5) years. The focus during Years One and Two will be planning and implementation.

Years Three through Five will focus on assessment, and a progress evaluation will be completed in Year Five.

The County of Santa Clara’s Department of Aging and Adult Services has met with staff and members of the SAC on several occasions and has provided detailed plans to assist staff to develop an efficient model for completing the WHO application and action steps required to meet the “Age-Friendly” City designation.

By approving this recommendation, the City commits to:

- Applying to WHO for Mountain View to be designated as an “Age-Friendly” City;
- Organizing a Task Force to oversee the “Age-Friendly” process;
- Conducting community assessments of the eight domains identified by WHO;
- Developing an action plan based on the community assessments; and
- Identifying indicators so progress can be documented against the action plan.

Benefits of becoming an “Age-Friendly” City include:

- Promoting services and structures that address health and wellness of an aging population;
- Exploring strategies that support an aging population;
- Providing a community where all members of the community thrive and that is friendly for all ages; and
- Creating a list of outcomes from the Task Force that can be utilized by other City departments as new projects are reviewed and approved.

Staff is recommending that annual updates be made to the City Council on the work of the Task Force. Upon approval of the application to WHO, staff anticipates a 90-day period to establish the Task Force. Community assessments will begin within 45 days of the Task Force being established. The first report to the City Council would take place in early 2018.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Staff anticipates some additional costs for creating, marketing, and holding meetings related to the Task Force. In addition, the County may be able to find an appropriate intern to assist staff with public outreach and Task Force meetings. Staff believes no more than \$1,000 to \$2,000 will be spent each year and these items are anticipated to be absorbed within the existing Community Services Department operating budget.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Decide not to apply to WHO to designate Mountain View as an "Age-Friendly" City.
2. Delay the application to WHO to designate Mountain View as an "Age-Friendly" City and request staff to bring back additional information for Council review.
3. Provide other direction.

## **PUBLIC NOTICING** – Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Michele Petersen  
Recreation Supervisor

Approved by:

J.P. de la Montaigne  
Community Services Director

Daniel H. Rich  
City Manager

MP/7/CAM  
207-10-18-16CR-E

Attachments: 1. Resolution  
2. State of Mountain View Senior Report 2015