July 3, 2018

Mr. Jeff Johnson  
Florida State AARP Director  
3350 SW 148th Ave. #120  
Miramar, FL 33027  

RE: Age-Friendly Community Designation

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of the City of New Port Richey, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP Florida and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities in the nation, the City of New Port Richey is committed to promoting policies to make America’s small towns friendly to aging populations.

With over 30% of the City’s population 60 and older and a projected increase of ten percent over the next decade, we want to address this increasing demographics by convening a Task Force on Aging comprised of a diverse group, including executives from non-profit providers, funding organizations, policy makers and academia. Our goal will be to ensure our aging neighbors have the resources to be healthy, independent and integrated into community life.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the City of New Port Richey to:

- Include the active engagement of older adults in the Task Force.
- Secure a City Council Resolution to work toward becoming a more age-friendly city.
- Establish a Plan of Action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community.
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

We look forward to working with AARP Florida staff and volunteers and other stakeholders to establish a Task Force and create a plan of action that responds to the needs of the community and to ensure our community has the appropriate infrastructure in place so we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rob Marlowe  
Mayor, City of New Port Richey
Membership Application
To join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 7/11/2018

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of New Port Richey

STATE: Florida

POPULATION SIZE: 14,911

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 30.6%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Marlowe

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 5919 Main Street, New Port Richey, FL 34652

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

NAME: Mr. Chris Bornfleth

POSITION: Assistant Director Parks and REcreation

EMAIL ADDRESS: bornflethc@cityofnewportrichey.org

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 727-841-4560

Please describe the named person’s role in the city or community’s age-friendly initiative:

As Assistant Parks & Recreation Director for the City of New Port Richey, Chris Bornfleth plays an integral part by spearheading the initiative to become an Age-Friendly Community. It is the normal and natural way of thinking in the Parks and Recreation Department that all segments of our community are to be welcome and embraced. Here in New Port Richey one third of our population is sixty and over so we are well familiar with the needs and wants of this part of our community. The City's hosting free concerts by tribute bands playing music from such artists as Elton John, and the Beach Boys have created a gathering place in our Beautiful Downtown Sims Park and a time of socialization for those often more alone than not. The city has a beautiful 32,000 square foot Recreation Center that affords those with Silver Sneakers insurance free memberships and offers weekly get togethers for our seniors along with a wide variety of exercise classes targeted specifically to our seniors who can take the classes without becoming a member. Thinks like free pickleball lessons twice weekly are helping not only to keep our senior in good physical condition, they provide a social network for those involved as does our senior water aerobics classes which meet outside of class monthly for a social get-together. Chris’s leadership role as the Parks and Recreation Department’s Assistant Director carries on out into the community spearheading this application and initiative process.
Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

A beautiful, walkable, historic downtown with safe, well-lit streets and easy free parking along with plentiful downtown housing is the foundation for our age-friendly city. The building blocks are not all in but we have a pretty good start with recently declaring the city golf cart friendly, having all of our parks ADA accessible including the James E. Grey Preserve with raised wooden walkways for easy access to wheeled vehicles such as walkers, mobility scooters and wheelchairs. Next to the Recreation and Aquatic Center is the Claude Pepper Center and Senior Health Clinic and near-by at City Hall you will find employees and a large volunteer contingent who are of social security age but are holding important positions that help to keep the city running smoothly. The New Port Richey City Library is downtown and easily accessible by private vehicle and public transportation. The library offers free computers to use, classes for seniors in a number of categories from chair yoga to writing your autobiography, all free of charge and encouraging social interaction which helps to negate social isolation. The CARES Center offers free computer classes, art classes, knitting, quilting, free legal advice, bridge, dance and much much more and is also easily accessible by public transportation and private vehicle. A task force with members of all ages will to be established to work on a road map to creating a move age interactive community and will include representatives from the City of New Port Richey, Cares Community Center, The Area agency on Aging, Pasco Aging Network, the Chamber of Commerce, West Pasco Business Association, Baycare Hospital, New Port Richey Main Street Organization, The New Port Richey Rotary, The New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center and local citizens from Neighborhood Associations, People Places, Kaiser University, West Pasco Historic Society and the School Board.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?
The philosophy of inclusion carries right into involving our older more experienced community members by calling upon their expertise to help create a wish list and a to do list which can ultimately be the layout of an ideal age friendly city. The Mayor may establish through a proclamation a Task Force to liaise with and report to the City Council. The Area Agency on Aging and the Pasco Aging Network will be invited to participate in the Mayor’s Task Force on Age-Friendly New Port Richey, along with citizens sixty and older and representative and stakeholders actively engaged in the community. The Task Force may organize fact finding missions and take basic surveys rating NewPort Richey’s Age-Friendliness at round table meetings hosted at the Recreation and Aquatic Center, the City of New Port Richey Library, The West Pasco Historic Society and local community centers to discover what the New Port Richey citizens are looking for in an Age-Friendly Community, what they feel is missing now and what they would like to see added moving forward. Round table discussions with established questions, table moderators and a cross section of the community can be the starting point of citizen involvement, social interaction across all ages and fact finding. A semi-annual information fair at the City of New Port Richey Library bringing vendors and groups pertinent to those fifty and older can be put onto the city calendar and advertised via the city newsletter, Facebook, social networking site and the local paper.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

The Mayor’s Task Force on Age Friendly New Port Richey will be tasked with bringing all the stakeholders to the table. Locally there are a number of organizations and agencies whose missions include key elements of the WHO and AARP’s Age-Friendly Cities and Communities guidelines that are working independently. The Task Force will endeavor to create an environment in which all stakeholders are able to communicate and work together for the greater good of the community which in turn will promote business success, financial growth and ultimately an age friendly city that can be an example for other small towns to follow. The Mayor’s Task Force will also promote their meetings and round table groups for public input, they will report regularly to the city council and most importantly to the community at large via local newspapers and social media as well as speaking engagements whenever possible.
Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

New Port Richey is a small town is only about 15,000 citizens. If New Port Richey can work toward becoming a more age friendly city then others easily can too. We have many experienced citizens with expertise in a variety of arenas who will help to guide New Port Richey on this journey. We, as a city, look forward to sharing with other small communities via AARP and WHO our successes and failures along the way as we learn more often times from what didn’t work than from what easily did.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

New Port Richey has been undergoing a revitalization and resurgence over the past three years. The city had renovated our downtown park and included splash pads and a beautiful new playground for the community youngsters and their parents. We are looking at adding a skate park and more bike paths for our young adults in the near future. Microbreweries are springing up for the millennials and downtown businesses are moving into downtown right now. Moving forward the city wants to make sure all of its citizens are included in future plans and being a true age-friendly city just makes sense from both community and economic viewpoints.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours:

https://www.cityofnewportrichey.org/
Office of the Mayor
City Of New Port Richey

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the global population of people aged 60 and over is expected to grow from 600 million now to almost 2 billion by 2050; and

WHEREAS, research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in their homes and communities as they age; and

WHEREAS, access to quality health care and long-term services and supports is essential for individuals to live in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, of the eighty percent of older adults living in metropolitan areas, sixty-four percent live outside the principal cities of these areas in suburban locations that tend to be auto-dependent, creating challenges for residents who do not drive; and

WHEREAS, reduced mobility for older non-drivers leads to fifteen percent fewer trips to the doctor, fifty-nine percent fewer shopping trips and visits to restaurants, and sixty-five percent fewer trips for social, family and religious activities; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities to promote public policies to increase the number of cities and communities that support healthy ageing thereby improving the health, well-being, satisfaction and quality of life for older Americans; and

WHEREAS, the WHO has developed eight domains of community life that influence the health and quality of life of older people which include outdoor spaces, transportation, housing, social participation, social inclusion, communication and community support; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Port Richey deems it proper to support the initiatives and opportunities to engage in the WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rob Marlowe, Mayor of the City of New Port Richey do hereby proclaim that the City of New Port Richey hereby supports the

WHO Age-Friendly Cities
and Communities Network

and encourage opportunities to engage in the Network for the health and well-being of our residents.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

ATTEST:____________________

DATE:____________________