

Item Title: Wake County Achieves Membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners recognizes Wake County's designation as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, an affiliate of the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program.

Item Summary:

In 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched an international effort to help cities prepare for rapid population aging and the parallel trend of urbanization. The program has participating communities in more than 20 nations, as well as ten affiliates representing more than 1,000 communities. The AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities is one of the affiliates of the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program.

The AARP Network helps participating communities become great places for all ages by adopting such features as safe, walkable streets; better housing and transportation options; access to key services; and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities.

Although there are currently over 108 communities represented across the US, Wake County's acceptance into the network will make it only the third such community in North Carolina.

By joining the AARP Network, Wake County has declared its commitment to a continual cycle of improvement in the eight domains the World Health Organization has identified as influencing the health and quality of life of older adults:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social participation
5. Respect and social inclusion
6. Civic participation and employment
7. Communication and information
8. Community support and health services

Attachments:

None