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CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

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A RESOLUTION expressing The City of Seattle’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.

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WHEREAS, according to the *An Aging World: 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; and

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, one in five U.S. residents is expected to be

aged 65 years or over by mid-century; and

WHEREAS, King County reports that its population increased 36 percent from 1990 to 2015

while the number of residents living in unincorporated King County decreased by 50

percent, suggesting that a segment of the population is increasingly residing in cities; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2016, in recognition of The City of Seattle’s (City) commitment to

becoming more age-friendly, the World Health Organization and AARP designated the

City a member of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, which

includes 380 members representing 37 countries; and

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WHEREAS, 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

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1 participation and employment; communication and information; and community support
2 and health services; and

3 WHEREAS, older adults, whether domestic or foreign-born, in the U.S. face unique challenges
4 impacting their health and wellbeing that need to be addressed by policymakers; and

5 WHEREAS it is estimated that at least one in eight U.S. adults aged 65 and older are foreign-
6 born, a share that is expected to continue to grow; and

7 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) indicates that disparities
8 in income level, poverty, access to medical care and other factors impacting quality of
9 life persist among many older adults, increasingly adults of color; and

10 WHEREAS, according to HHS, the U.S. older population is becoming more racially and
11 ethnically diverse as the overall minority population grows and experiences greater
12 longevity; and

13 WHEREAS, although the study *Aging with Pride* provides important new information about the
14 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population over age 50, little is known
15 about older LGBT people because very few studies on older adults and aging focus on
16 sexual orientation or gender identity; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Resource Center [on](#) LGBT Aging reports that the number of self-
18 identified LGBT older adults is expected to more than double by 2030; and

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19 WHEREAS, *Aging with Pride* concludes that communities should identify successful programs
20 and policies addressing the aging and health needs of LGBT older adults and create
21 models that can be implemented in urban, suburban, and rural communities, especially
22 where LGBT organizations are not present; and

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1 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle has a longstanding and deep commitment to race and social
2 justice and to equity, and has demonstrated its commitment to work in partnership with
3 other cities and communities across the country to address some of the city’s most
4 challenging issues, including homelessness, affordable housing, transportation, education,
5 environmental sustainability, and race and social justice; and

6 WHEREAS, *Age-Friendly Seattle* provides a community environment that optimizes
7 opportunities for health, participation, and security to ensure quality of life and dignity
8 for people of all ages and abilities. *Age-Friendly Seattle* accomplishes this by recognizing
9 the wide range of older people’s capacities and resources; anticipating and responding to
10 aging-related needs and preferences; respecting older people’s decisions and lifestyle
11 choices, protecting those who are most vulnerable; and promoting older people’s
12 inclusion in, and contribution to, all areas of community life; and

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13 WHEREAS, Seattle is a welcoming city that provides its residents, regardless of immigration
14 status, access to all of its programs and services, reaffirmed by the Mayor on November
15 23, 2016, through Executive Order 2016-08; NOW, THEREFORE,

16 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
17 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

18 Section 1. The City of Seattle (City) will engage in a continuous improvement process to
19 become a more age-friendly city. This ongoing cycle of assessment, planning, implementing,
20 and evaluating will:

21 A. Generate Seattle’s age-friendly goals, success measures, and innovative solutions that
22 reflect our diverse and vibrant community for each City department;

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- 1 B. Create long-term goals and identify indicators of success to measure progress in the
2 second quarter of 2017;
- 3 C. Ask City departments to develop recommendations consistent with the World Health
4 Organization's Eight Domains of Livability;
- 5 D. Integrate an age-friendly lens into the City's equity and inclusion initiatives;
- 6 E. Raise awareness of the positive contributions, strengths, and potential of older adults;
- 7 F. Increase collaboration among City departments and other governments, elders,
8 families, caregivers, and service providers and provide regional leadership in supporting the
9 positive contributions of older adults and enabling people of all ages and abilities to achieve their
10 potential; and
- 11 G. Implement an early action launch plan in the second quarter of 2017 to build on best
12 practices from other cities and create early successes in 2017 and early 2018 for seniors and
13 families in Seattle. The early action launch plan includes the departmental actions described in
14 Sections 2 through 5 of this resolution.
- 15 Section 2. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will take the following
16 actions to improve the pedestrian environment:
- 17 A. Assess sidewalk conditions to improve mobility, transit connections, and safe travel
18 for seniors, and other pedestrians;
- 19 B. Develop a methodology and process for the sidewalk assessment that involves seniors
20 in both design and validation;
- 21 C. Implement walkability audits for seniors to examine intersections, sidewalks, driver
22 behavior, public safety, and more to help SDOT identify opportunities to improve the pedestrian
23 experience in the city; and

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1 D. Incorporate age-friendly considerations into the forthcoming Pedestrian Master Plan
2 Implementation Plan.

3 Section 3. The Human Services Department (HSD) and SDOT will take the following
4 actions to reduce transportation costs for seniors:

5 A. Work with King County Metro to increase access to and use of the Regional Reduced
6 Fare Permit;

7 B. Leverage the “no wrong door” program structure to improve mobility and
8 transportation access for seniors who enter the realm of aging services; and

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9 C. Partner with organizations to promote transportation options for all older adults.

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social or human services to expand

10 Section 4. In promotion of recreation and wellness for seniors:

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11 A. The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), HSD, and Department of
12 Neighborhoods (DON) will ensure participation by seniors as part of the regular development
13 and engagement process for new capital investments;

14 B. DPR will ensure that intergenerational approaches to design are considered in capital
15 investments; and

16 C. HSD and DPR will increase participation in DPR senior-focused recreation and
17 healthy food programs and collaborate with the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE)
18 to increase use of the City-sponsored Fresh Bucks program.

19 Section 5. To prevent resident displacement of seniors:

20 A. HSD and the Office of Housing (OH) will advance a regional effort to create a
21 housing action plan to assess senior housing needs, and advance affordable housing strategies for
22 older residents;

Irene Stewart
HSD Age-Friendly Seattle RES
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1 B. HSD, in cooperation with the King County Assessor, will identify low-income seniors
2 to increase the number of households enrolled in either the senior property tax exemption or
3 deferral program or in the Utility Discount Program;

4 C. OH will create a cross-referral relationship with the tax exemption/deferral and utility
5 discount programs to expedite seniors' and other low-income homeowners access to these
6 programs;

7 D. OH will assist low-income homeowners in addressing critical home repair needs
8 through home repair programs and increasing access to weatherization services, and one-time
9 loans to prevent foreclosure; and

10 E. HSD's Age-Friendly Seattle project team will evaluate the feasibility of senior home-
11 sharing options, including: partnerships to increase the capacity and opportunity for short-term
12 rentals; intergenerational home-sharing programs; and communal housing for self-sufficient
13 seniors.

14 Section 6. In June 2017, the Mayor will convene community equity forums to explore the
15 unique vulnerabilities of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender elders, and those unique to older
16 women, similar to forums that have explored aging issues among people of color and within
17 immigrant and refugee communities.

18 Section 7. HSD's Age-Friendly Seattle project team will explore further system
19 improvements to provide older adults with better access to human services and other City
20 resources, which may include: redesign of the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens based on best
21 practices and innovative solutions from other cities; enhanced uses and deployment of
22 technology; and other recommendations for departments.

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Housing Levy will expand the programs utility for seniors who
cannot qualify for a loan product

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1 Section 8. HSD will design and administer a Human Services Innovation Fund, with the
2 first year focused on the Age-Friendly Seattle initiative, modeled after successful small-grant
3 programs at the Department of Neighborhoods and the Seattle Information Technology
4 Department, to identify unique and creative projects that meet community needs.

5 Section 9. The City will consider suggestions for *Age-Friendly Seattle* investments in the
6 2018 budget.

7 Section 10. HSD will develop the Age-Friendly Seattle 2018-2021 Work Plan, which will
8 continue implementation of 2017 *Age-Friendly Seattle* early actions and establish regular
9 assessments of *Age-Friendly Seattle* early launch actions.

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10 Section 11. The Mayor or the Mayor's designee will report on the progress of the *Age-*
11 *Friendly Seattle* 2018-2021 Work Plan to the Human Services and Public Health Committee, or
12 other appropriate City Council committee, throughout the period of performance as requested by
13 City Council, along with a final report in 2021.

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Irene Stewart
HSD Age-Friendly Seattle RES
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1 Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2017,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of
3 _____, 2017.

4 _____
5 President _____ of the City Council

6 The Mayor concurred the _____ day of _____, 2017.

7 _____
8 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

9 Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2017.

10 _____
11 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

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15 (Seal)