



EXECUTIVE ORDER
AGE-FRIENDLY/LIVABLE COMMUNITY

EO No.	1-62
Effective Date:	Upon Approval

1. PREFACE

The City of Houston (“the City”) is a young, vibrant, and diverse city, teeming with opportunity and amenities. While being home to a young and diverse population, the City of Houston is also home to an aging population.

As of 2015, one out of every ten Houstonians is 65 years of age and older. As the number of older Houstonians increases, the demand for services and amenities tailored to this demographic will increase as well.

The City recognizes the importance of anticipating the needs and preferences of older Houstonians and respecting their lifestyle choices by ensuring that access to services and amenities that support a healthy and proactive lifestyle for all Houstonians.

2. SCOPE

This Executive Order is applicable to all City of Houston departments with primary responsibility for housing, mobility, community planning and development, neighborhoods, public safety, health, social services, public infrastructure, culture, recreation, and green space projects and programs.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Age-Friendly/Livable Community: A community that is safe, secure, resilient, and its residents have access to affordable and age-appropriate health care, housing and transportation options, and proactive programs that foster the independence of Houstonians as they age and their ability to actively engage in civic, economic, and social life.

3.2 Age-Friendly/Livable Community Action Plan: The collaboration with the City, AARP, and community partners to promote and prioritize policies, programs, and actions that support the City’s commitment to meeting the needs and preferences of Houstonians as they age now and in the future.

3.3 Mayor’s Advisor on Age-Friendly/Livable Communities: Mayor’s representative and chief advocate for policy matters that impact Houstonians as they age. The Mayor’s Advisor coordinates City resources in the implementation of the Age-Friendly/Livable Community Action Plan. The Mayor’s Advisor works closely with local, state, and national advocacy organizations on aging to ensure that the Mayor’s vision, policies, and initiatives are implemented.

4. PURPOSE

4.1. To establish policies and practices that comport with the Age-Friendly/Livable Community Action Plan for Houston and with AARP’s national age-friendly/livable community initiatives.

Approved:

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Date Approved:

08/27/2019

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- 4.2. To facilitate and increase access to services that contribute to and support vibrant living environments and a healthy quality of life for Houstonians as they age.
- 4.3. To ensure that City facilities and infrastructure meet the needs of Houstonians as they age.
- 4.4. To improve and increase access to healthy living components such as fresh food options, multi-modal mobility options, physical and social activities, communications technology, and cultural and intellectual activities.
- 4.5. To implement policies and practices that will increase and strengthen access to physical and mental health care services.
- 4.6. To increase opportunities for senior citizens to remain in their homes and neighborhoods.
- 4.7. To strengthen and expand programs that provide safety to Houstonians as they age and lessen their vulnerability to crime.
- 4.8. To collaboratively foster an environment and culture that proactively seeks continuous improvement of the services and amenities that are accessible and available to Houstonians as they age.

5. POLICY

- 5.1. The City of Houston is committed to becoming an Age-Friendly/Livable Community and endorses the goals of the Age-Friendly/Livable Community Action Plan for Houston and AARP's Age-Friendly/Livable Community initiatives.
- 5.2. Existing City policies and efforts to further the City's objective in becoming an Age-Friendly/Livable Community include, but are not limited to:
 - 5.2.1. Operations such as the Area Agency on Aging, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Mayor's Safer Streets initiative, the Houston Police Department's DWI Task Force, and Harris County Sheriff's Office Regional Multi-Agency Task Force and Special Task Force on Intersection and Sidewalk Safety for Persons with Disabilities.
 - 5.2.2. Complete Streets and Transportation Plan Executive Order 1-15: adopted on November 1, 2013, directs City efforts to achieve complete streets that consider all users, including people of all ages and abilities who are driving or riding in cars, using mass transit, riding bikes, walking, using wheelchairs, driving or being transported by emergency vehicles, and being served by other users.
 - 5.2.3. Plan Houston, which is the City's first General Plan and adopted by City Council on September 30, 2015, identifies six (6) goals and actions that align with an Age-Friendly/Livable Community. They are: Nurture Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, Connect People and Places, Champion Learning, Foster an Affordable City, Sustain Quality Infrastructure; and Communicate Clearly and with Transparency.
 - 5.2.4. Complete Communities Action Plans are solutions-oriented platforms developed by community collaboratives and adopted by City Council on August 29, 2018. These action plans help provide greater access to quality affordable housing, transit options, public infrastructure, healthy food choices, recreational amenities, and multi-generational social interaction that support and reinforce a healthy, vibrant, and active age-friendly lifestyle.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1. The Mayor's Advisor on Age-Friendly/Livable Communities will ensure that all departments develop criteria and standards that appropriately include components of the Age-Friendly/Livable Community Action Plan in City of Houston plans, programs, and designs as they relate to the following areas.
- 6.1.1. Transportation: Encourage safe, walkable, accessible, and affordable multi-modal mobility options.
 - 6.1.2. Housing: Promote and support the availability of affordable, accessible, equitable, age-friendly housing options that include the availability of home repair and modification programs that allow for aging in place.
 - 6.1.3. Public Safety: Promote public safety and security inside and outside of the home that address fire and crime prevention, home safety, elder abuse and mistreatment, financial security, disaster preparedness, and fraud protection.
 - 6.1.4. Health and Community Support: Ensure greater access to home and community-based healthcare services, both physical and mental, and programs that promote wellness.
 - 6.1.5. Communication and Information: Facilitate affordable access to communications technology and training for all Houstonians to continue to stay connected to the City and their neighborhoods, communities, friends, and family as they age.
 - 6.1.6. Open Spaces and Buildings/Social Participation: Emphasize safe, affordable, and accessible indoor and outdoor recreational facilities and increased opportunities for multi-generational social interaction.
 - 6.1.7. Respect and Social Inclusion: Encourage and foster an atmosphere of respect and inclusion for ethnicity, age, and cultural diversity.
 - 6.1.8. Civic Participation, Volunteerism and Employment: Encourage volunteerism and mentorship among all Houstonians and seek the value-added services they have to offer.

7. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 7.1. The Department of Neighborhoods Inspections and Public Service Division routinely encounters Houstonians age 65 and older who own and occupy single-family residences that do not meet minimum standards or have been classified as dangerous buildings. On an ongoing and collaborative basis, the Mayor's Advisor on Age-Friendly/Livable Communities, the Housing and Community Development Department, Health Department, Houston Public Works, Planning and Community Development Department, and the Department of Neighborhoods will coordinate available public and community-based resources that will partner with the age 65 and older homeowner to bring the residence up to standards.
- 7.2. In collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Boards and Commissions, the Mayor's Advisor on Age-Friendly/Livable Communities will submit the names of Houstonians with demonstrated commitment to age-friendly practices and policies as nominees to the Mayor for consideration as mayoral appointees to the Area Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) of the Harris County Area Agency on Aging.

7.3. The Mayor's Complete Communities initiative, Climate Action Plan, Resilient Houston strategy and other current and future citywide planning efforts will be updated, where appropriate, to reflect the goals and objectives of the Age-Friendly/Livable Community Action Plan.