

## **Portland City Council Presentation June 8, 2011**

Good Morning Mayor Adams and Commissioners. I am Vicki Hersen, Executive Director for Elders in Action. Our mission is to ensure a vibrant community through the active involvement of older adults. We have been proud to work with the City of Portland since 1968 to help ensure that the quality of life in Portland never depends on age.

We have been pleased to work with the Institute on Aging and their partners during the past 5 years on the World Health Organization's Age Friendly Cities project.

We are extremely encouraged that Portland has embraced the vision and goals of becoming an Age Friendly city by being one of the first cities to join the Global Network of Age Friendly Cities. Thank you for your foresight and understanding of this important social and economic opportunity.

A key component to the Age Friendly Cities planning cycle as noted in Dr. Neal's presentation is the involvement of older adults and baseline assessment.

Elders in Action is delighted to offer the wisdom and experience of our trained volunteers to help ensure that Portland is an accessible and livable city for all ages in the years to come. We can use the tools we developed in 1993 to assess the "elder friendliness" of the city's offices and services in the 8 "Age Friendly Cities" topic areas using our trained elder evaluators.

We also see the recently approved **Portland 5 year Neighborhood Economic Development Strategy** as a wonderful opportunity to partner with business and community partners to help create a vibrant community using recommendations approved by City Council in 2004 for neighborhood livability standards for seniors. These combined with our Elder Friendly® Business standards could help create a model for a

thriving neighborhood where a grandmother and her 8 year old grandson can walk safely from home to the store for orange juice or to buy a soccer ball and enjoy the walk.

Elders in Action looks forward to harnessing the time and talent of its volunteers in working with the City of Portland, the Institute on Aging and its partners to help ensure that Portland is a city that works for all ages and is a place where people may stay active and involved in their community no matter what the age.

Thank You.



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 5/26/2011  
**TO:** PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** COMMISSIONER AMANDA FRITZ AND MAYOR SAM ADAMS  
**RE:** ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES

As part of its response to the rapid aging of populations around the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the first wave of its Global Network of Age-friendly Cities with a total of nine cities worldwide. In 2007, Portland State University's (PSU) Institute on Aging (IOA) conducted the Portland portion of WHO's Age-Friendly Cities project. Portland was the only U.S. city to participate in the initial study (33 cities in 22 countries). The project focused on eight topics: housing, transportation, outdoor spaces & buildings, social participation, respect & social inclusion, civic participation & employment, communication & information, and community & health services. The goal of the original study was to identify: (1) age-friendly features, (2) barriers to age-friendliness, and (3) suggestions for making the city friendly for those of all ages and abilities.

On October 1, 2007 – International Day of Older Persons – Mayor Potter was the keynote speaker for Portland's launch of findings at City Hall in Council Chambers. This project laid the groundwork for the PSU-City of Portland partnership and has led to the IOA to being known as a leader in the field of age-friendly cities research, presenting at international as well as national, state, and local meetings.

In June, 2010, Portland (via Mayor Adams and the IOA) applied for membership to the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and was selected as one of the original nine cities of the Network because of its focus on planning and designing for a population of all ages and abilities. The other cities are New York City, NY; Manchester, UK; Brussels, Belgium; Geneva, Switzerland; Melville, Australia; Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain; Louth County, Ireland; and London, Canada.

The PSU Institute on Aging would like to present to City leaders the membership certificate to the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities. We request Portland City Council's acceptance of this certificate.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Amanda Fritz.

Amanda Fritz

Commissioner of Public Utilities

Handwritten signature of Sam Adams.

Sam Adams

Mayor

Accept membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities (Presentation introduced by Mayor Adams and Commissioner Fritz)

JUN 08 2011

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Filed JUN 03 2011

**LaVonne Griffin-Valade**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

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COMMISSIONERS VOTED  
AS FOLLOWS:

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1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		