



City Council Agenda Item Staff Report

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

DATE: March 14, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Ann Mottola, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Provide Direction to Staff on Launching the Age Friendly Certification Process

BACKGROUND:

On February 14, 2023, City Council asked Staff to evaluate the impact to Staff to support an Age Friendly Certification from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in Partnership with the Center for Age-Friendly Excellence (CAFE).

The concept of Global Age Friendly Cities was developed in 2005 by the World Health Organization (WHO) to help cities consider and implement policies and services to support older adults as they grow older to live healthy and vibrant lives. The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities is the United States affiliate of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. San Mateo County has partnered with the Center for Age-Friendly Excellence (CAFE) to help local communities achieve this designation.

The WHO recognizes that older people often require supportive and enabling living environments to compensate for physical and social changes associated with aging. The Global Age Friendly Cities effort began to encourage cities to provide the structures and services to support well-being and productivity of older people. The WHO has identified the following eight (8) key domains requiring a conscious effort to create an age friendly community:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Communication and Information
- Community Support and Health Services
- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

DISCUSSION:

San Mateo County has arranged for the Center for Age-Friendly Excellence (CAFE) to work with local agencies to provide technical assistance with their Age-Friendly Communities certification under the AARP/WHO Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Staff has reached out to agencies in Santa Clara County and San Mateo County who have

completed or are in the process of completing the certification process. While the staff and stakeholder participation and outreach varied from agency to agency, all agencies agreed that the work supported by CAFE required consistent but rather manageable Staff support, with the most reporting four to six hours per month to support the initial 5-month planning stage.

Should Council decide to proceed with this project, during the next five months, San Bruno will work closely with CAFE, who will provide technical assistance, consultation, applied research access, community organizing, and coordination of the assessment process, while also helping to write the official application to be submitted to WHO for San Bruno to receive the Global Age-Friendly Cities Designation.

The process will begin with establishing an age-friendly task force with various stakeholders to oversee the process. The task force and CAFE will then conduct a series of focus groups to assess the baseline “age-friendliness” of the City of San Bruno in the key domains listed above. Qualitative data reports from focus group discussions will then be reviewed; identifying indicators so progress can be monitored against an action plan. As CAFE helps in guiding this process, the task force will recommend potential projects and services to be implemented over the next one to two years to address any unmet needs. Depending on the projects recommended, this may require additional Staff resources, however all agencies reported that many of the outcomes identified by the Task Force were projects already in progress, or small adjustments that made the City’s processes more inclusive and age friendly.

These efforts will lead to the completion of the Age-Friendly City application, which includes a letter of intent signed by the City Council. If the City of San Bruno applies to AARP to participate in the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, and its application is approved, the City will be committed to making a five-year commitment to assess the age friendliness of San Bruno and to develop an action plan to make the City more livable for people of all ages.

Based on the aforementioned, if the City proceeds with this project, Staff will be able to provide support during the initial 5-month information gathering process. Any efforts beyond that initial 5-month period, including developing an action plan and implementing initiatives, will require further evaluation. Agencies contacted who have engaged in this process reported various levels of impact, including the need for consultant services to develop the action plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Initially, no funding is required, other than Staff time, as the cost of the consultant support is provided by the San Mateo County. Any future funding support needed from the City will be incorporated through the budget development process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The action is not a project subject to CEQA. City Council’s action is not considered a “Project” per CEQA Guidelines and therefore no further environmental analysis is required.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide Direction to Staff on Launching the Age Friendly Certification Process

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.