

# Proclamation

## City of Mission



**WHEREAS**, the Age Friendly RIO GRANDE VALLEY (AF-RGV) Initiative is an all-inclusive and engaging movement of cities and communities focused on building and shaping a physical and social environment that fosters friendliness and livability while creating opportunities for active aging and enriching lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Rio Grande Valley communities are still young, but the older adult population increases during the winter months and aligns with global projections, which anticipate the population aged 60 and above, will reach 2 billion by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the Age Friendly Rio Grande Valley (AF-RGV) Initiative, led by Dr. Sudershan Pasupuleti, Professor of UTRGV School of Social Work, and his team with a Seed Grant and in collaboration with LRGV Area Agency on Aging, consistent with World Health Organization's and AARP's AGE FRIENDLY CITY Framework, encourages cities and counties to promote age-friendly communities throughout the Rio Grande Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, active aging is a life-long process, whereby an age-friendly community is not just "elder friendly" but also intended to be friendly for all ages while fostering environments that honor, support, and integrate older adults into all aspects of social life through all-inclusive infrastructure, policies, workplaces, healthcare, and social services; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Age-Friendly City/Community framework recognizes and addresses the needs of individuals across all age groups, regardless of their capabilities and capacities. These communities promote active aging by maximizing opportunities for health, activity, and security within their living environments; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Mission is dedicated to ensuring the needs and interests of all residents are served, and as an age-friendly community, committed to embracing the principals of an age-friendly community and leading efforts to enhance opportunities for individuals of all ages.

**NOW THEREFORE**, we the City Council of the City of Mission acknowledge and endorse the Age Friendly Rio Grande Valley Initiative and pledge that the City of Mission, Texas will actively adopt the Age Friendly Framework and work towards creating and maintaining a healthy, safe, and high-quality living environment for citizens of all ages.

**PROCLAIMED** on this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

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**Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor**

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**Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman**

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**Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem**

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**Marissa Ortega Gerlach, Councilwoman**

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**Alberto Vela, Councilman**