



Municipality of Anchorage

Dave Bronson
Mayor

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

November 16, 2023

Dear Mayor Bronson,

The Senior Citizens Advisory Commission would like to thank you for your support in our commission work. Our purpose is to advise the mayor, the Assembly and appropriate department heads with respect to aspects of aging which bear upon the welfare of senior citizens. We educate ourselves on issues that affect seniors and compile that information for their benefit. We provide public awareness for the needs of seniors as well as resources and services available.

As part of our mission, it is our job to be informed about various agencies and programs that benefit seniors. We have had presentations at our monthly meetings from organizations such as Alaska Legal Services, RurAL CAP's Elder Mentor Program, AARP and Alzheimer's Prevention who have shared their knowledge of senior concerns.

Each May, the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission celebrates **Older Americans Month**, recognizing older Americans and their contributions to the nation at an annual luncheon. The theme for Older Americans Month 2023 was Aging Unbound, emphasizing how older adults should remain engaged, independent, and included. We thank you for your presence and remarks at the event. Sponsored by AARP, their State Director, Teresa Holt, provided words of encouragement and support to those attending. The event culminated in the awarding the 19th Annual Ron Hammett Award for outstanding service to seniors and their families to Leonard Kelley, a local lawyer and activist for senior concerns as well as a long-time board member of the Older Persons Action Group.

The Commission's current focus points are dementia awareness, Alzheimer's and caregiver support. Additionally, commissioners are actively involved in the Anchorage as an Age-Friendly Designation project in conjunction with AARP.

Other projects currently in the works include the Municipal Health Fair, presented on November 16, 2023. This event was a joint project with the Anchorage Senior Activity Center, the Anchorage Health Department and involvement in the Medicare Task Force. Various businesses donated their time and talents providing COVID and flu shots, health screenings for vision and hearing and resource assistance – all free.

Currently the commission is preparing support letters for Alzheimer's and dementia awareness and for the Anchorage as an Age-Friendly Designation project.

Alaska continues to have the fastest growing senior population per capita. Their contributions highlight the roles they play as mentors, guardians, role models, history keepers, and teachers. These are the pioneers who developed our community and left a legacy to pass on to our children. They contribute to the economy. With Alaska being the fastest growing population per capita, in 2018 the sixty and older population represented 31% of the state's population, but 40% of the state's gross domestic product. Their spending is expected to grow to 58 cents of every dollar spent in Alaska by 2050.

We would like to extend our appreciation for your leadership as Mayor of Anchorage and look forward to continuing our role, offering advice on the aspects of aging which bear upon the welfare of our senior citizens and their families.

Sincerely,

Jim Bailey

Anchorage Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Jim Bailey, Chair
Gordon Glaser, Vice Chair
Dr. Emily McMahan
Abi Haring-Brito
AnnaBell Stevens
Dawnia Clements
Traci Willett
Suzanne Hickel
Deborah Bear