

Dear Mayor,

As members of the Milken Institute's Best Cities for Successful Aging Advisory Committee, we're asking for your pledge to improve the lives of older people. In cities across America and the world, a massive demographic shift is posing unique challenges and opportunities. We share the Institute's goal: *to make our cities work better for older residents*. To accomplish this goal, significant change is needed. Mayors stand at the forefront, working to improve conditions for older adults that will lead to a brighter future for all ages.

In 2012, the Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank, first issued its groundbreaking, data-based "[Best Cities for Successful Aging](#)" report. In conjunction with the publication of the next edition of BCSA this fall, the Institute will recognize and publicly highlight mayors who are leading the way to better lives for their aging populations and demonstrating their commitment to positive change by signing the *Best Cities for Successful Aging Pledge*.

Best Cities for Successful Aging measures, compares and ranks U.S. metropolitan areas for their capacity to enable successful aging. The BCSA methodology makes use of publicly available data on health care, wellness, living arrangements, transportation and convenience, financial characteristics, employment and educational opportunities, and community engagement.

The first edition of BCSA received extraordinary attention from national and local media, city leaders and planners, and a wide range of other stakeholders. Regularly cited in major outlets such as "PBS NewsHour," Forbes, CBS, NBC, CNN, the Los Angeles Times, USA Today and Yahoo, BCSA was called "an invaluable resource for Americans" by The Wall Street Journal. BCSA helped communities focus on successful aging, which has led media, stakeholder groups and elected officials to call for release of the next edition. We expect even greater visibility for BCSA 2014.

The Institute is not alone in seeking progress on this issue. Recognizing the power of cities to change the landscape of aging, the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities aims to transform cities as they prepare for an aging population. Both nationally and globally, cities are in the spotlight.

Beyond making our cities work for an aging population, enhanced health and well-being mean that *older adults should have the opportunity to work for our cities*. Older residents can improve the lives of all generations through volunteer activity and encore careers across the government, nonprofit and private sectors.

We respectfully ask you to sign the [Best Cities for Successful Aging Pledge](#), and we look forward to celebrating your commitment to making your city an even better city for successful aging.

Thank you,

## Best Cities for Successful Aging Advisory Committee

**Laura L. Carstensen**

*Professor of Psychology and Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. Professor in Public Policy, Stanford University; Founding Director, Stanford Center on Longevity*

**Henry Cisneros**

*Chairman, City View; former Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; former Mayor, San Antonio*

**Pinchas Cohen**

*Dean, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, University of Southern California*

**Catherine Collinson**

*President, Transamerica Institute*

**Joseph F. Coughlin**

*Director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab*

**Ken Dychtwald**

*President and CEO, AgeWave*

**Marc Freedman**

*CEO and Founder, Encore.org*

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**Michael W. Hodin**

*Executive Director, Global Coalition on Aging*

**Sherry Lansing**

*Founder and CEO, Sherry Lansing Foundation*

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*Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer Inc.*

**Robert H. McNulty**

*President, Partners for Livable Communities*

**Paul H. Irving**

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*Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy and Director of the Center for Policy Research on Aging, UCLA*

**Andrew von Eschenbach**

*President, Samaritan Health Initiatives Inc; former Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration; former Director, National Cancer Institute; Senior Fellow, Milken Institute*



## Best Cities for Successful Aging Pledge

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to make \_\_\_\_\_ a city for successful aging:

### ***To make our city work for older adults, I will take steps to:***

- Ensure that the well-being of our aging population is addressed by each department, agency and division in our city government.
- Make our city safe, affordable and comfortable for our older residents.
- Provide older adults access to resources promoting health and wellness.
- Support employment, entrepreneurship, education and other services to make our older residents more financially secure.
- Offer housing options that suit the varied needs of our older population.
- Improve access to transportation and mobility options for our older adults.

### ***To provide opportunities for older adults to work for our city, I will:***

- Promote the engagement of older residents in volunteer and paid roles that serve the needs of our city and its residents.
- Call upon higher education and workforce development programs to help older adults refresh their skills, train, and transition to a new stage of work focused on strengthening our city.
- Recognize older residents as an asset for our city and celebrate their contributions to improving lives for all generations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_