

South Portland City Council  
***Position Paper of the City Manager***

***Subject:***

**ORDER #31-17/18 – Establishing an *ad hoc* Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.  
Passage requires majority vote.**

***POSITION:***

This item was discussed at the July 24, 2017 Council Workshop. The proposed committee would be charged with five tasks over the course of 16 months:

1. Conducting a needs assessment of those aged 65+ in South Portland;
2. Identifying current programs in place that meet the needs of seniors;
3. Identify gaps between needs and available services and determine partnerships and options that could meet these needs;
4. Develop a comprehensive strategy for communicating to our seniors the programs available to them; and
5. Delivering recommendations to the City Council.

Council is being asked to create the committee and allocate up to \$6,000 for their work. Committee members and the chairperson would be selected by the committee.

***REQUESTED ACTION:***

Council passage of ORDER #31-17/18.



City Manager



**City Council Proposal**  
**Senior Citizen Advisory Committee**  
**Councilors Maxine Beecher and Susan Henderson**  
**August 21, 2017 City Council Meeting**

# Workshop Proposal



## Establish an Ad Hoc Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

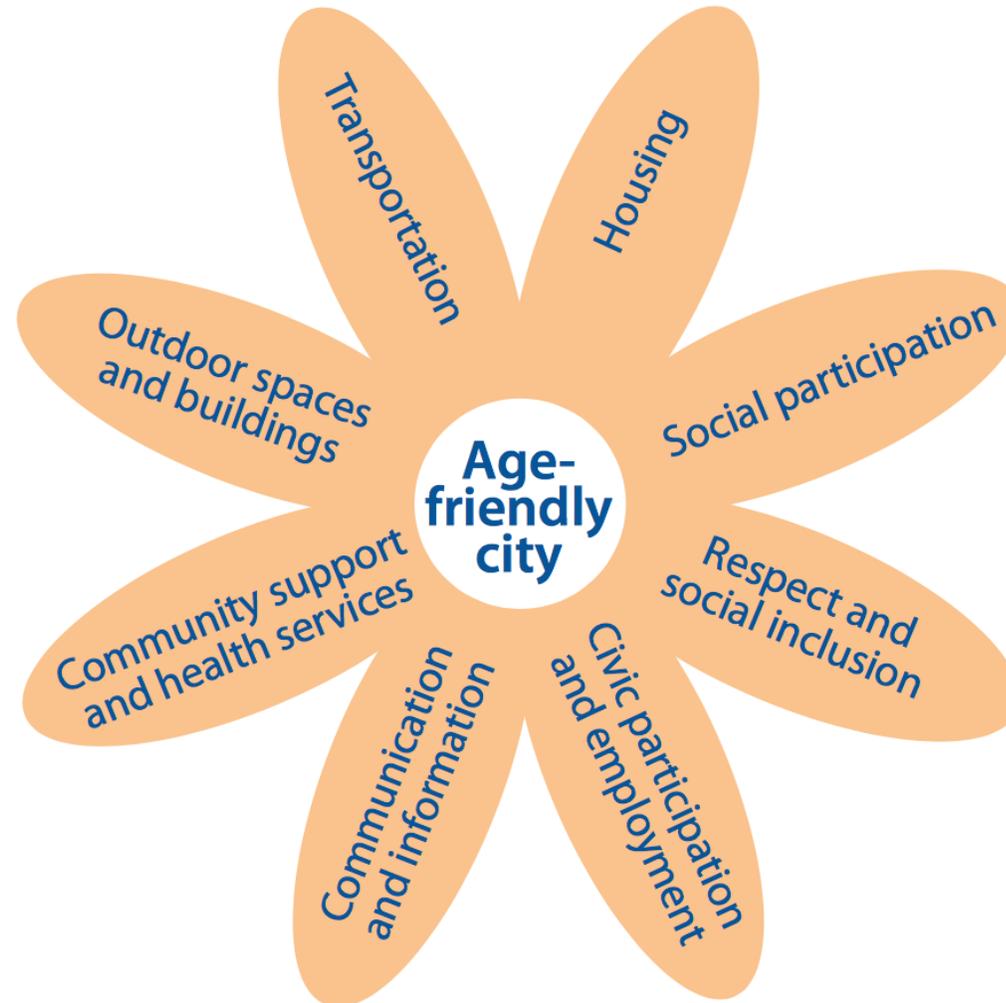
### **Mission:**

Establish an ad hoc committee to ensure seniors have access to services and infrastructure enabling them to live safely and with dignity as they age.

# Committee Goals:

1. Conduct needs assessment of seniors, capturing age and dwelling type (apartment, home-owner, etc).
2. Identify current programs and services in place to meet identified needs.
3. Identify gaps between needs and available services and determine partnerships and options to fill those gaps.
4. Develop comprehensive strategy for communication of available programs and services.
5. Recommendations will be delivered to city council within 16 months of project ad hoc committee starting meetings.

## 8 Domains for Aging in Place - World Health Organization



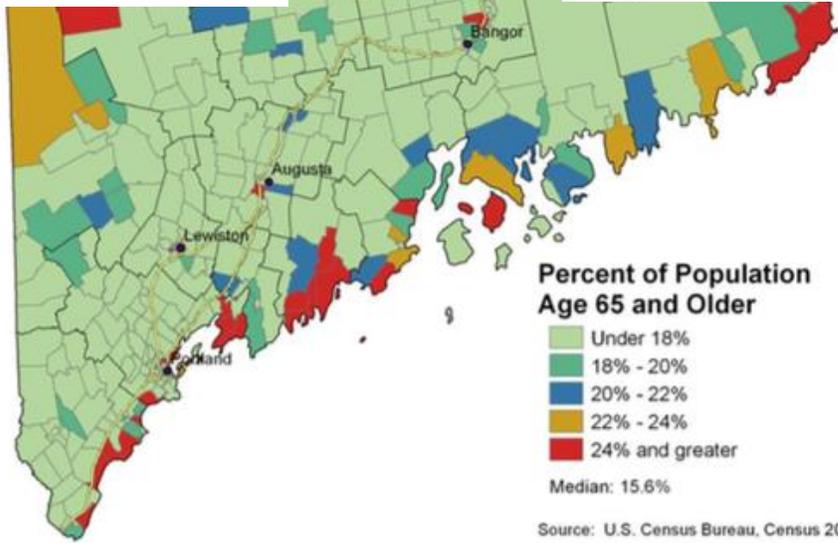
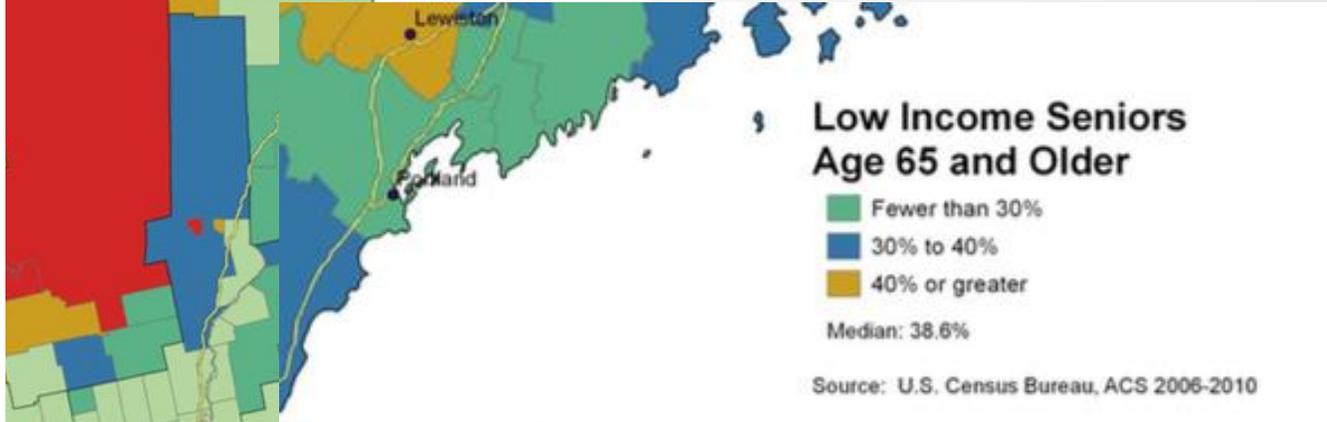
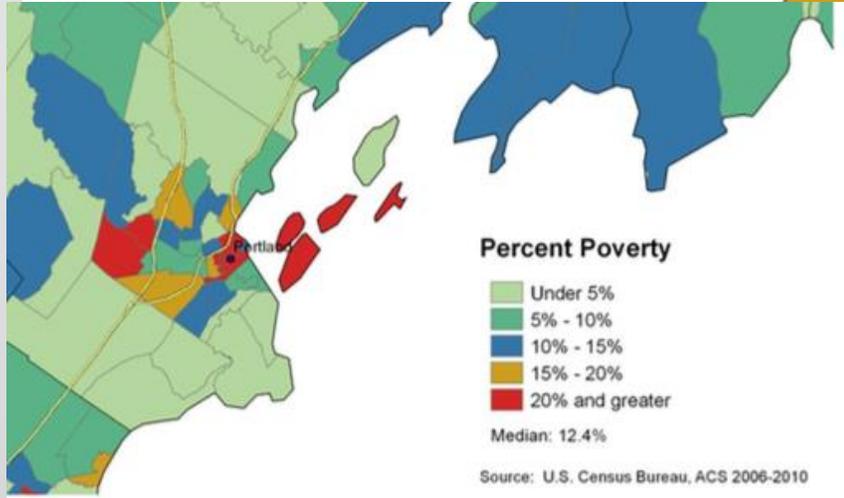
Global age-friendly cities : a guide.

1.Aged - statistics. 2.Aging. 3.Urban health. 4.City planning. 5.Residence characteristics. 6.Quality of life. 7.Consumer participation. 8.Strategic planning. I.World Health Organization.

ISBN 978 92 4 154730 7 (NLM classification: WT 31)

© World Health Organization 2007

# Map 9. Percent of Population Age 65 and Older

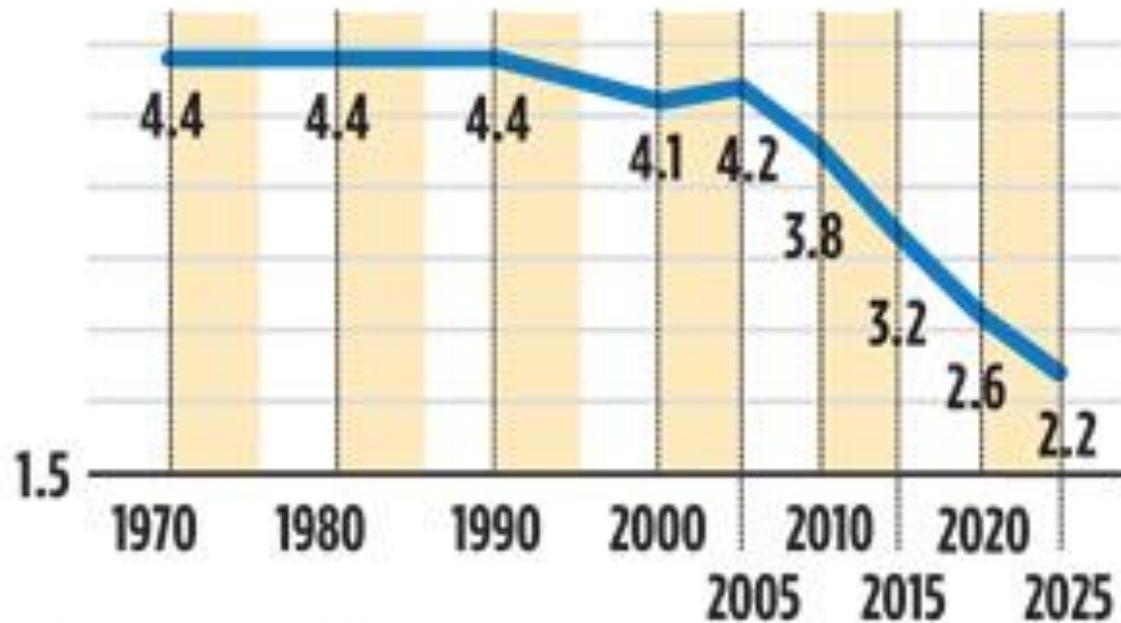


Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire  
 Report 1: A Demographic Profile of Maine  
 Highlighting the Distribution of Vulnerable  
 Populations Marybeth J. Mattingly Andrew  
 P. Schaefer June 21, 2012 Final Report to  
 the John T. Gorman Foundation

Data from maps 9, 20, and 24

## Projected ratio of elder dependency in Maine

By 2025, there will be only two working-age Mainers for each person age 65 and older. In the 1980s and 1990s, there were four people ages 20-64 for each retired Mainer. The dwindling number of people in the work force, contributing to pension funds and supporting government programs that assist seniors, is expected to deepen the strain created by a growing senior population.



SOURCE: Muskie School of Public Service

STAFF GRAPHIC | MICHAEL FISHER

26% of Maine Seniors are  
Living Alone

(25.6% in Cumberland and  
York Counties.)

## 1. Thriving versus Surviving

When we set up systems or infrastructure to support aging in place, we must consider the quality of life indicators that are specific, but not exclusive, to older individuals. It is not enough to facilitate “systems” that allow people to age in place. Rather, we need to focus on the indicators that promote a high quality of life and ultimately allow people to thrive in older age rather than simply survive. These indicators include opportunities for lifelong learning, a sense of belonging and contribution, and being embraced for one’s virtues rather than being shunned because of one’s disabilities.

## 2. Opportunities versus Accommodation

It is not news that as a society we display a lack of respect toward our older neighbors. Policy makers talk about the drain that Medicare and Social Security place on our federal budget. We often talk about the exploding Baby Boomer population and the strain they will put on the various systems they will need to access as they age. When we shift our focus, however, we can see older adults, with their wisdom, skills and abilities, as an abundance rather than scarcity.

**Governance:** There are two primary approaches to governing an aging friendly community. A **top-down approach** relies on information coming from, and decisions being made by, policy makers and planners. A **bottom-up approach** focuses on programs that emphasize participation by older people themselves.

Building a Collaborative  
Community Response to  
Aging in Place  
A Guide to Creating an Age  
Friendly Maine, One  
Community at a Time. Sept  
2013, Pg. 12, 26

August 21, 2017

Dear Manager Morelli and Mayor Smith,

Each day, fifty people in Maine turn sixty-five. Within twelve years, one in four Mainers will be over the age of 65 and South Portland will be impacted by these statistics. We are an aging community.

After hearing from many South Portland seniors about the various difficulties they currently experience living in our city, Councilor Beecher starting meeting with Councilor Henderson and residents Marilyn Reilly, Elizabeth Ross Holmstrom, and Melissa Linscott, to formulate a proposal for establishing an Ad Hoc Senior Advisory Committee under the guidance of the City Council. The mission of the Senior Advisory Committee is to ensure that seniors have access to services and infrastructure enabling them to live safely and with dignity as they age.

The first goal of the Committee will be to determine the current needs of residents over sixty-five; the second is to identify gaps between current services and identified needs; and the third goal is to develop proposals to meet gaps between services and needs and develop a comprehensive strategy for communicating programs and services. Finally, a report will be completed and issued to the City Council within 16 months of September 2017 (January 31, 2019). We anticipate a budget of \$6,000 to complete the survey work. After these goals have been achieved, we will determine whether further activity is needed. For the present time, an ad hoc committee is appropriate.

Our process will begin by appointing a core group to complete the work. This will be a nucleus of 9-11 people consisting of 3-5 residents; two members of local agencies; one business member, and three government representatives (2 councilors and 1 member of city staff). This group will establish various subcommittees to work on specific projects as needs are determined. Since the City Council workshop on this topic and subsequent Sentry publicity, there has been an overwhelming show of support and offer to help with this project from citizens.

We hope the Council's will affirm this committee and approve the requested \$6,000 budget for the survey work. We are anxious to immediately proceed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maxine Beecher

Susan Henderson

Marilyn Reilly

Elizabeth Ross Holmstrom

Melissa Linscott



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

PATRICIA A. SMITH  
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI  
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY  
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT  
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

**IN CITY COUNCIL  
ORDER #31-17/18**

District One  
CLAUDE V.Z. MORGAN

\_\_\_\_\_

District Two  
PATRICIA A. SMITH

\_\_\_\_\_

District Three  
EBEN ROSE

\_\_\_\_\_

District Four  
LINDA C. COHEN

\_\_\_\_\_

District Five  
BRAD FOX

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
Maxine R. Beecher

\_\_\_\_\_

At Large  
SUSAN J. HENDERSON

**ORDERED**, that an *ad hoc* Senior Citizen Advisory Committee is hereby established to ensure seniors have access to services and infrastructure enabling them to live safely and with dignity as they age. This committee shall report back its findings and recommendations no later than 16 months from passage of this order.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the committee is authorized to select its own membership and appoint its own chairperson. The membership of the committee shall be comprised as follows:

- At least three but no more than five residents
- Two members of local agencies
- One member from the business community
- Three government representatives (two councilors and one member of city staff).

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the committee is authorized expend up to six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to achieve their work.

Said amount shall be charged to the Council Contingency Account #13093062-628800.

Fiscal Note: Not to Exceed \$6,000

Dated: August 21, 2017