

CINCINNATI TO BE MORE SENIOR FRIENDLY

BY BRENDA C. MCCASKILL (BRENDA@ABOUTGREATERCINCINNATI.COM)

PHOTO/IMAGES PROVIDED

Cincinnati continues to get props for being a great place to live, work, and play. In December 2016, Cincinnati was ranked by CNBC as the 7th best place in the U.S. where one can likely live well on \$60,000 - find a job, earn a good salary, and buy a nice home.

But what about being a zip code for the growing demographic of an aging senior population living in the city?

“After many, many months of working with community members, community organizations, and our City Administration, I'm delighted that today my colleagues unanimously passed my package”, posted Cincinnati City Council Member P. G. Sittenfeld on Facebook, “of items that constitute our Golden Cincinnati Initiative - aimed at ensuring that Cincinnati is a great place to age and that we have smart, senior-friendly policies for all who call our city home in their golden years.”

Now, there is a focus to expand the city's reputation to include being an age-friendly, livable city!

The nine-point plan, known as the Golden Cincinnati Initiative (GCI), was launched in early January 2017 and focuses on an age-friendly design, livable city for seniors to include tax incentives, community paramedicine, and pedestrian safety.

For the first time in Cincinnati history, there will be an Aging and Accessibility Czar, a point person in the



City of Cincinnati Council Member P. G. Sittenfeld announces Cincinnati Golden Initiative.

(Photo Seniors, Inc)

City Manager's office, to be a designated central point of contact for senior constituents with issues that are senior-specific and more. There will also be a designated phone number and website to offer a one-stop resource for seniors.

“We are especially pleased that information about our services and other community resources will be more accessible to seniors through the appointment of an “Aging Czar” and the development of a senior-focused page on the city's website.” shares Rhonda Y. Moore, Executive Director of Pro Seniors, Inc., experts in resolving seniors' legal and long-term care problems and

on a mission to enhance the independence and quality of life of seniors. “... Pro Seniors believes “Golden Cincinnati” will bring positive economic and social benefits for seniors and the community at large.”, Moore shares with AboutGreaterCincinnati.com.

While the Golden Cincinnati Initiative is senior focused, a side benefit of several of the focus areas will aid other populations including those mobility, physically challenged. For example, the GCI recognizes to assist with pedestrian

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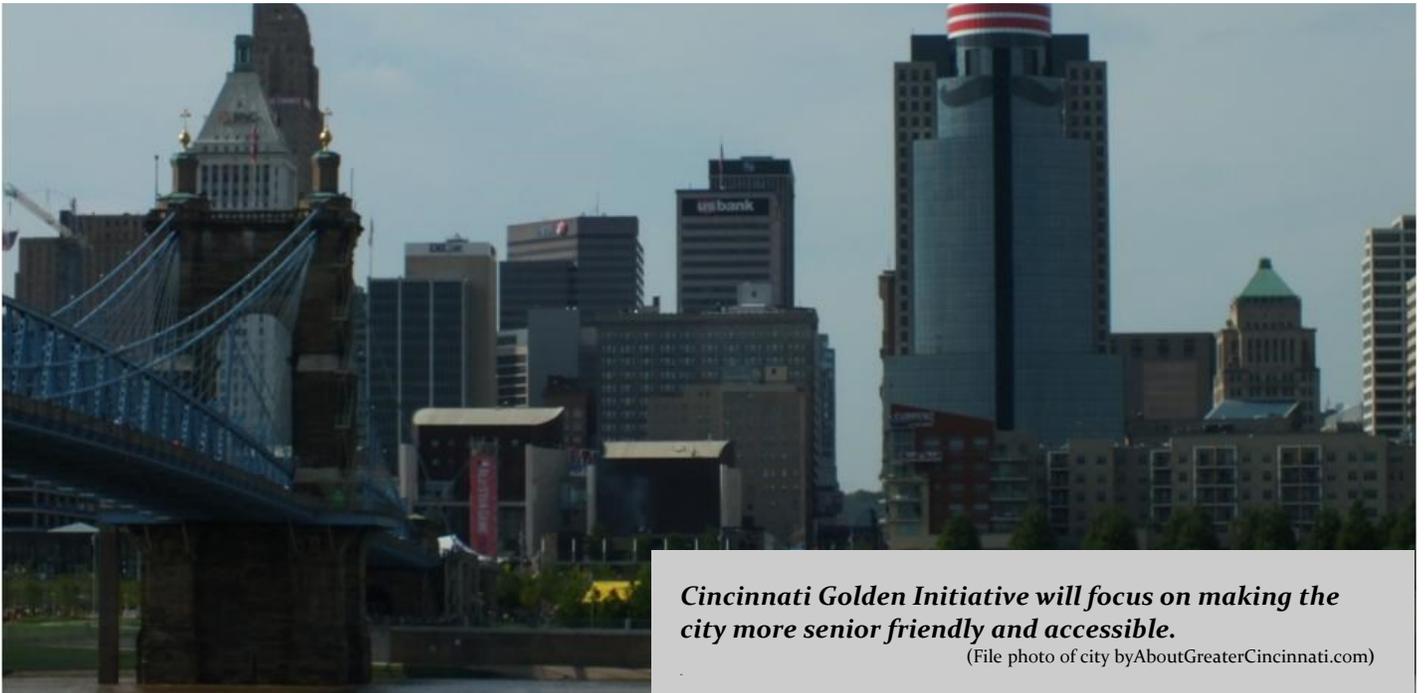
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Cincinnati Golden Initiative will focus on making the city more senior friendly and accessible.

(File photo of city byAboutGreaterCincinnati.com)

safety and mobility of the senior population, there is a need at certain crosswalks to have the ability for a longer crossing time available. With that as one of the end goals, there will be a pilot program to provide push buttons to be activated at select crosswalks to provide a longer crossing time. This is just one example of how GCI will have a positive impact on the community at large.

“When communities embrace the demographic wave of our aging population everyone wins.” said State Director of AARP Ohio Barbara A. Sykes in an article posted on their website. “Crosswalks and sidewalks designed to accommodate the needs of older pedestrians also benefit the parent with toddlers or jogging stroller in tow as well.”

As cited on the Ohio AARP website, in a few years there will be more people over age 65 in the world than children under 5. Findings show that an older population can contribute greatly in all walks of life. But, to make the most of this opportunity, communities must address an array of challenges that can make it harder to stay independent and productive.

Said Sykes, “Cincinnati is one of Ohio’s great cities and this intentional focus shows city leaders have the kind of vision that will keep it great in the years to come.”

To learn more about the Cincinnati Golden Initiative,, visit the city website [here](#).

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