

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
M E M O R A N D U M**

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**TO:** Jason E. Brown; County Administrator

**THROUGH:** Phillip J. Matson, AICP; Community Development Director

**FROM:** John Stoll; Chief Long Range Planning

**DATE:** September 13, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the Livable Indian River County Action Plan

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**BACKGROUND:**

On June 18, 2019, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) directed staff to work with the Senior Collaborative of Indian River County (SCIRC) in order to attain the designation of an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Livable Communities / Age Friendly Community.

The Livable Communities Network was created to engage and mobilize communities to work within their geographical areas and to find support in their state in order to make communities more age friendly. Age-friendly communities foster economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages.

Once AARP Florida accepted Indian River County into the network, a group of advocates and SCIRC representatives came together as a Core team. The Core Team included members of twenty organizations representing older advocates, nonprofits, businesses, and governmental organizations. The group developed a mission to guide the Livable IRC's work:

*To expand livability for all ages in IRC by promoting and advocating for a community that is safe and secure, has affordable housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services that enhance the quality of life of residents.*

Livable Indian River County was launched February 19, 2020. Covid-19 presented a unique challenge for receiving public input. Team members disseminated the survey through a variety of methods including providing the survey at vaccine sites. The final survey count was 1913, with 1866 suitable responses for analysis.

In Spring of 2021, SCIRC members joined workgroup meetings facilitated by the Florida Department of Health Indian River (FDOH-IR) to develop FDOH-IR's new 2022-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The 2022-2026 CHIP priority areas and associated action plans were adopted for the Livable Indian River plan, with a few minor additions and modifications.

The Action Plan highlights four domains:

### **Community Health**

To identify current community and health service gaps and ways to fill the gaps to expand livability for IRC residents who become ill, get hurt, or need assistance so they can access and afford health services, community supports and wellness activities. This domain also includes components from two additional World Health Organization domains: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings and Social Participation.

### **Housing**

To increase number and availability of affordable housing units and increase resources, education, access, and integration of services for home ownership attainment.

### **Economic Opportunity and Employment**

Includes the World Health Organization Age-Friendly domain Civic Participation and Employment. To reduce unemployment, increase GED achievement, and establish community resource centers.

### **Communication and Information**

Increase awareness of the positive contributions of older adults and services and activities available to them through education, awareness campaigns and strengthen collaboration.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners accept the Livable Indian River County Action Plan.

### **Attachment**

1. Livable Indian River County Action Plan