

June 11, 2019

201901171

Sandra Jones Mitchell  
Serving Older Adults through Changing Times (So ACT)  
ADD Reading Road, Suite xxx  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

Dear Cincinnati City Council Members,

I have been an advocate for the senior citizens throughout the city of Cincinnati for several decades now. I recognized that the Community Council has put the "Senior Czar" back into the city budget.

If you are going to continue to spend public money on this position, it needs more responsibility, structure and accountability so that it can really help seniors in our community better navigate aging in place.

We need many more services than this position has delivered on such as implementing safety zones for seniors, availability by phone to help seniors with daily challenges and serving older adults through changing times by creating a city-wide senior coalition to facilitate better coalition of care.

Because our seniors aren't able to be as involved in the community, taking our seniors housing knowing that many are struggling financially is not showing them respect, and leaving those that are disabled but aren't classified as 'elderly' to fend for themselves is unacceptable as well.

What does it mean to you all that the city has been selected as an aging friendly community?

There are many things that need to be fixed. The city needs to step up to the plate for those who can no longer take care of themselves because many families aren't or can't. If you are going to keep this position, you need someone in the role who cares deeply about the conditions that our seniors face and the capacity to put in place effective strategies that will help and honor them in the way they deserve.

Sincerely,

Sandra Jones Mitchell