RESOLUTION NO. 33 - 24

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING INNOVATIONS IN AGING COLLABORATIVE

WHEREAS, Innovations in Aging Collaborative was founded in 2009 by Barbara Yalich and BJ Scott in consultation with UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley- Zalabak to convene other community leaders interested in preparing Colorado Springs Community for aging issues and the growing senior population. With the leadership of Dr. Sara Qualls, UCCS, and strong national reputation for aging studies and research was a critical resource in the founding of IIAC; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Innovations in Aging Collaborative gained support from Mayor John Suthers and the Colorado Springs City Council to join the network of Age Friendly Cities, becoming the second city in Colorado to complete a five-year Age Friendly Plan; and

WHEREAS, alongside engaged community members and City leaders, Innovations in Aging Collaborative completed multiple community needs surveys and achieved over 96% of tangible goals for the City; Successful projects from the Age Friendly Plan included creating the Commission on Aging, the Pikes Peak Housing Network, the Pikes Peak Resource Portal, advocacy for new ordinances for Accessory Dwelling Units, Age Friendly Business Designation for members of the Better Business Bureau, and Dementia Friendly designation. Age Friendly is a successful convener of stakeholders and a catalyst for starting new programs; and

WHEREAS, COVID provided challenges and isolation for older adults, UCCS Dr Judy Scott's research provided guidance for new supportive programs, and the Housing Domain convened meetings to allow stakeholders address issues of rent and utility assistance and evictions during and post-pandemic; and

WHERAS, Innovations in Aging has had great community engagement from a dedicated Board which has been under the leadership of Dayton Romero, Chair, and a dedicated staff under the leadership of Executive Director Erin Maruzzella; and

WHEREAS, Innovations in Aging has demonstrated commitment to a joint mission of laying the foundation for an ongoing commitment to an Age-Friendly city to elevate the lived experiences of everyone who grows up and grows older together in the City of Colorado Springs. Innovations in Aging has served our community for 15 years as an example of collaboration and stakeholders working together to solve community challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Innovations in Aging Collaborative has established a new Age Friendly Plan for next five years, with partnership from the City of Colorado Springs, and has appreciated the necessary engagement, dedication, and commitment of many stakeholders and Steering Committee leaders. This plan and action items will continue to

inform Age-Friendly planning and strategy, upon which the city can lead in service to ongoing work for Age-Friendly Colorado Springs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. The City Council recognizes the Innovations in Aging Collaborative and their continued work to convene the community to promote creative approaches that address the challenges and opportunities of aging.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 23rd day of April 2024.

Randy Helms, Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk

COLORADO SPRINGS INCORPORATED SEAL SEPTEMBER 3, 1872 COLORADO