

_____ County Board of Health Resolution

**Resolution on the Prohibition of Smoking or All Tobacco Use in
County Buildings, in County Vehicles,
on County Grounds¹ and in Public Places**

Date:

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure are leading preventable causes of illness and premature death in North Carolina and the nation;² and

WHEREAS, tobacco is a recognized carcinogen in humans, and health risks associated with the use of tobacco products include myocardial infarction, stroke, and adverse reproductive outcomes;³ and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, and asthma attacks in both smokers and nonsmokers;⁴ and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the United States Surgeon General determined that secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke and that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke;⁵ and

WHEREAS, research indicates that, during active smoking, outdoor levels of secondhand smoke may be as high as indoor levels and may pose a health risk for people in close proximity (such as those sitting beside someone on a park bench or children accompanying a smoking parent or guardian)⁶; and

WHEREAS, in air quality tests, concentrations of secondhand smoke in vehicles have been found to be far greater than in any other micro-environments tested, including smoke-free homes, smokers' homes, smoke-filled bars, and outdoor air – even with a vehicle's windows open and its fan set on high⁷; and

WHEREAS, the _____ County Board of Health provides support to employees and residents who want to quit the use of tobacco products. Employees and residents are also encouraged to talk to their health care provider about quitting, ask about appropriate pharmacotherapy available through their health insurance plan or employee's insurer, and use the free quitting support services of the North Carolina Tobacco Use Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669); and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2010, "An Act To Prohibit Smoking In Certain Public Places And Certain Places Of Employment," North Carolina Session Law 2009-27, became effective, authorizing local governments to adopt and enforce ordinances, rules and policies "that are more restrictive than State law and that apply in local government buildings, on local government grounds, in local vehicles, or in public places;" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. 130A-39(a), local boards of health have the responsibility to protect and promote the public's health and to adopt rules necessary for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, the _____ County Board of Health is committed to protecting the health of individuals by minimizing the harmful effects of tobacco use among County employees and eliminating secondhand smoke exposure for employees and the public in and on those buildings, vehicles, and grounds controlled by the County; and

WHEREAS, _____ County Board of Health is committed to protecting the health of individuals by eliminating secondhand smoke exposure in public places.

Therefore be it resolved that the _____ County Board of Health supports the adoption of a local ordinance to prohibit smoking or the use of other tobacco products in or on:

- (a) County buildings – buildings owned, leased as lessor, or the area leased as lessee and occupied by the County.
- (b) County vehicles – passenger-carrying vehicles owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the County and assigned permanently or temporarily by the County to its employees, agencies, institutions, or facilities for official County business.
- (c) County grounds – unenclosed areas that are owned, leased, occupied by the County.
- (d) Public places – any enclosed area to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted.

Adopted by the _____ County Board of Health this _____ day of _____, 20____.

_____, Chairperson
_____ County Board of Health

ATTEST:

¹ The Board of Health may present a resolution to a City Council or Board of County Commissioners within its jurisdiction. This model resolution is written as if it were to be presented to a Board of County Commissioners. The references to “County” above may need to be changed if the resolution is presented to a City Council.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Smoking and Tobacco Use Fast Facts, http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/#toll (last visited Oct. 7, 2010).

³ U.S. DEP’T OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF INVOLUNTARY EXPOSURE TO TOBACCO SMOKE: A REPORT OF THE SURGEON GENERAL 12, 13, 15 (2006), <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/report/index.html>.

⁴ *Id.* at 14-16.

⁵ *Id.* at 11.

⁶ Neil E. Klepeis, Wayne R. Ott, and Paul Switzer, *Real-time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles*, 57 J. AIR & WASTE MGMT. ASS’N 522, 522 (2007); Neil E. Klepeis, Etienne B. Gabel, Wayne R. Ott, and Paul Switzer, *Outdoor Air Pollution in Close Proximity to a Continuous Point Source*, 43 ATMOSPHERIC ENV’T 3155, 3165 (2009).

⁷ Wayne Ott, Neil Klepeis & Paul Switzer, *Air Change Rates of Motor Vehicles and In-Vehicle Pollutant Concentrations from Secondhand Smoke*, 18 J. EXPOSURE SCI. AND EVNTL. EPIDEMIOLOGY 312, 312 (2007), available at http://tobaccosmoke.exposurescience.org/pub/reprints/Ott_CarStudy.pdf; see also Ontario Medical Ass’n, Backgrounder -Tobacco Smoke Concentration in Cars, <https://www.oma.org/Resources/Documents/fTobaccoSmokeConcentrationsInCars.pdf> (last visited March 30, 2011).