

**RESOLUTION NO. 4787**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A SMOKE-FREE ALASKA**

**WHEREAS**, tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including at least 69 of which are known to cause cancer,<sup>1</sup> including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia, and hydrogen cyanide,<sup>2</sup> and people who are exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers,<sup>4</sup> including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and smoke-free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*, determined that even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, there are serious questions about the safety of inhaling the substances in some e-cigarette aerosol, and e-cigarettes have not been subject to thorough, independent testing, making it difficult for users to be sure of what they are actually inhaling; and

**WHEREAS**, some studies have shown that some e-cigarettes can cause short-term lung changes and irritations, and the long-term health effects are unknown<sup>10</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, for every nine smokers who die, one nonsmoker dies from exposure to secondhand smoke<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately half of Alaska's population is not protected by a smoke-free workplace law<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, among those who work primarily indoors, young adults aged 18 to 29 are significantly less likely to be protected by a smoke-free indoor workplace policy than other Alaskan adults<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, research in communities where smoke-free laws have been adopted has consistently shown neutral or positive economic effects to the hospitality industry following a smoke-free workplace requirement<sup>9</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, smoke-free workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke<sup>4</sup>, reduce tobacco use overall and reduce health care costs<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, all Alaskans have the right to breathe smoke-free air.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that to protect the health and safety of all workers and visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke, the Fairbanks City Council supports a law in Alaska to make all workplaces 100% smoke-free; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the Fairbanks City Council and that the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Walker and members of the Interior Delegation.

**PASSED and APPROVED this 3rd Day of April 2017.**



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**Jim Matherly, City Mayor**

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Pruhs, Norum, Huntington, Cleworth  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
APPROVED: April 3, 2017

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



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**D. Danyielle Snider, CMC, City Clerk**



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**Paul J. Ewers, City Attorney**

**Sources:**

1. U.S. Surgeon General, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*, 2010.
2. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, *The Facts About Secondhand Smoke*, 2012.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke*: [www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/secondhand\\_smoke/health\\_effects/#lung](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/health_effects/#lung).
4. U.S. Surgeon General, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Secondhand Smoke*, 2006.
5. U.S. Surgeon General, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease Fact Sheet*, 2010: [www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/tobaccosmoke/factsheet.html](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/tobaccosmoke/factsheet.html).
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses—United States, 2000–2004*. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2008; 57(45):1226–8.
7. Tobacco Program Records, 2012 and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2011 Population estimates: [www.almis.labor.state.ak.us/pop/popast.htm](http://www.almis.labor.state.ak.us/pop/popast.htm).
8. Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, 2012 Alaska Tobacco Facts, 2012.
9. Eriksen, Michael & Frank Chaloupka. *The Economic Impact of Clean Indoor Air Laws*. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians. 2007: <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/57/6/367>.
10. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, *Commonly Asked Questions about Electronic Cigarettes*, 2014.