

A RESOLUTION INITIATING PLANNING FOR A REGULATION TO PROHIBIT
SMOKING IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORKSITES AND PUBLIC PLACES

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 3, 2002

WHEREAS, the U.S. Surgeon General, National Research Council and National Academy of Sciences report that environmental tobacco smoke causes lung cancer in healthy adult nonsmokers, and can cause lung function and structure alternation to the fetus of pregnant nonsmoking women; and

WHEREAS, in utero exposure is known to predispose children to long-term pulmonary risks; and

WHEREAS, these agencies found, separating smokers and nonsmokers within the same air space may reduce but does not eliminate a nonsmoker's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finds that environmental tobacco smoke is a Group A Carcinogen—a category reserved for known cancer-causing agents in humans; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) finds that secondhand smoke poses an increased risk of lung cancer and, possibly, heart disease to people exposed in the worksite, recommends that nonsmokers should not be exposed to secondhand smoke, and finds that nonsmokers can be protected by elimination of smoking in the building, or establishing separately ventilated smoking areas that exhaust directly to the outside; and

WHEREAS, these studies find that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease; and

WHEREAS, at special risk are infants, children, teens, pregnant women, elderly people, nonsmokers with long-term exposure to secondhand smoke, individuals with cardiovascular disease, and individuals with impaired respiratory function, including those with obstructive airway disease, asthma, lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory infection and decreased respiratory function; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the health dangers of secondhand smoke, the County, along with many other businesses and units of local government in Washtenaw County have implemented restrictions on smoking in their worksites; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County still has many workers and citizens who are involuntarily exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke at work and in public places; and

WHEREAS, many counties and municipalities nationally have enacted laws which substantially restrict or prohibit smoking in all or many worksites and public places; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan, Marquette City and Ingham County currently have regulations that virtually eliminate smoking in worksites and public places

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Public Health Officer to take the necessary actions under the Public Health Code to protect the public health and welfare by developing for approval by the Board, a regulation that substantially prohibits smoking in public and private worksites and public places in Washtenaw County

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners directs the Public Health Officer along with the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services to coordinate an effective community process and involve key stakeholders in developing the regulation for Board of Commissioner action before the end of 2002.