

Resolution of the _____ Committee

**Resolution to Prohibit Smoking and the Use of Other Tobacco Products in
_____ County's Parks and Recreation Buildings and on _____ County's Recreation Grounds**

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;¹ 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;² and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, and asthma attacks in both smokers and nonsmokers;³ 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; that children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma; that smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children; and that scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke;⁴ 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);⁵ and

WHEREAS, the Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation reports close to 500 municipalities have eliminated exposure to secondhand smoke with 100% smoke free parks, and 100 municipalities have eliminated exposure to secondhand smoke with 100% smoke free beaches;⁶ and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that smoking and smokeless tobacco use are almost always initiated and established during adolescence, that most people who begin smoking during adolescence are addicted by the age of 20, and that adolescent smokeless tobacco users are more likely than nonusers to become adult cigarette smokers;⁷ and

WHEREAS, every day an estimated 3,900 young people between 12 and 17 years of age try their first cigarette and an estimated 1,000 youth become daily cigarette smokers⁸; and

WHEREAS, children model adult behavior and benefit from positive models of non-smoking behavior and positive reinforcement of healthy lifestyle messages through exposure to smoke-free and tobacco-free public areas;⁹ and

WHEREAS, environmental organizations, including Keep America Beautiful, the Ocean Conservancy, and NC Big Sweep, consistently report cigarette butts as a leading cause of litter;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS, children playing in County parks and recreation buildings and on County recreation grounds are more likely to ingest cigarette butts if they are discarded and accessible;¹¹ and

WHEREAS, in 2008, American Poison Control Centers received over 7,000 reports of children under the age of 6 being poisoned by contact with tobacco products;¹² 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. 153A-121(a), Counties may, by ordinance, regulate, prohibit, or abate acts, omissions, or conditions detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, _____ County is committed to protecting the health of individuals in County parks and recreation buildings and on County recreation grounds by eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, _____ County is committed to protecting the health of children in County parks and recreation buildings and on County recreation grounds by eliminating the amount of litter caused by discarded cigarette butts; and

WHEREAS, _____ County is committed to protecting the environment of its parks, recreation grounds, and recreation buildings by eliminating the amount of litter caused by discarded cigarette butts; and

WHEREAS, _____ County is committed to protecting the health of children by providing an environment in County parks and recreation buildings and on County recreation grounds that promotes healthy messages about refraining from smoking and using other tobacco products.

Therefore, be it resolved that the _____ Committee supports the adoption of a local ordinance to prohibit smoking and the use of other tobacco products in _____ County’s parks and recreation buildings and on _____ County’s recreation grounds.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 20___.

_____, Chairperson
_____ Committee

ATTEST:

¹ 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).

² 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>.

³ *Id.* at 14-16.

⁴ *Id.* at 11.

⁵ 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).

⁶ Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, *Municipalities with Smokefree Parks Laws*, <http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/SmokefreeParks.pdf> (last visited Oct. 7, 2010); Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, *Municipalities with Smokefree Beach Laws*, <http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/SmokefreeBeaches.pdf> (last visited Oct. 7, 2010).

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth and Tobacco Use*, http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/index.htm (last visited Oct. 7, 2010).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.* (stating that one factor associated with youth tobacco use is smoking by parents or guardians).

¹⁰ OCEAN CONSERVANCY, *TRASH TRAVELS FROM OUR HANDS TO THE SEA, AROUND THE GLOBE, AND THROUGH TIME 2010 REPORT 11* (2010), http://www.oceanconservancy.org/images/2010ICCRReportRelease_pressPhotos/2010_ICC_Report.pdf; NC Big Sweep Keep North Carolina Clean, http://www.ncbigssweep.org/?page_id=17 (last visited Oct. 8, 2010); Litter in America – Results from the Nation's Largest Litter Study, http://www.kab.org/site/DocServer/LitterFactSheet_CIGARETTE.pdf?docID=5182 (last visited Oct. 8, 2010).

¹¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Ingestion of Cigarettes and Cigarette Butts by Children – Rhode Island, January 1994-July 1996*, MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT, Feb. 14, 1997, at 125-28, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00046181.htm> (stating that “ingestion of cigarettes and cigarette butts by children aged less than or equal to 6 years resulted in minor toxic effects and occurred more frequently . . . where cigarettes and cigarette wastes were accessible to children”).

¹² Alvin C. Bronstein, M.D., Daniel A. Spyker, PH.D., M.D., Louis R. Cantilena, Jr., M.D., PH.D., Jody L. Green, PH.D., Barry H. Rumack, M.D., and Sandra L. Giffin, RN, BSN, MS, *2008 Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers' National Poison Data System (NPDS): 26th Annual Report*, 47 CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY 911, 1039 (2009), <http://www.aapcc.org/dnn/Portals/0/2008annualreport.pdf>.