

HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 58-85

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE USE OF VOLATILE ALKYL NITRITES (POPPERS) BE BANNED IN PUBLIC PLACES AND RECOMMENDING THAT WARNINGS CURRENTLY USED BE POSTED AT EYE LEVEL AND AMENDED TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE USE OF VOLATILE ALKYL NITRITES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN KINDS OF AIDS.

Whereas, the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control of the Department of Public Health has prepared a report on the medical aspects of volatile alkyl nitrites and their relationship with the AIDS; and

Whereas, the report concludes that volatile alkyl nitrites are hazardous substances on toxicologic grounds alone, and that there is epidemiologic evidence which associates moderate and heavy nitrite use with the development of Kaposi's sarcoma which is one of the principal manifestation of AIDS in HTLV-III/LAV infected gay and bisexual men; and

Whereas, the existing Health Code requires health warning signs be posted at the point of sale which states that volatile alkyl nitrites may be harmful to health and that studies have suggested that some impairment of the immune system is possible, but does not state that recent studies show an association between the use of volatile alkyl nitrites and the development of Kaposi's sarcoma; and

Whereas, the warnings are not required to be posted at eye level; and

Whereas, the report recommends that the warnings be posted at eye level and that they be amended to include information on the association between the use of volatile alkyl nitrites and Kapsi's sarcoma; and

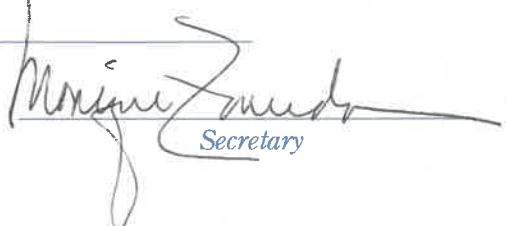
Whereas, the use of volatile alkyl nitrites in public places may expose persons involuntarily to the effects of the compounds; and

Whereas, the report recommends that the use of volatile alkyl nitrites in public places be banned in order to protect the public health; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Health Commission supports the recommendations made in the report to require that the signs be posted at eye level, and to amend the warnings to include information on the association between the use of nitrites and AIDS, and to ban the use of these compounds in public places in order to protect the public health; and be it

Further Resolved, That the Health Commission transmits the report on the medical effects of volatile alkyl nitrites and their relationship with AIDS to the Board of Supervisors, urging them to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission
at its meeting of December 17, 1985*


Secretary