

HEALTH COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 14-06

**Endorsing the San Francisco Tobacco Free Coalition Proposed Policies to Expand
Protections from Second Hand Smoke**

WHEREAS, second hand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in California and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board issued a report in January 2006 declaring second hand smoke as a toxic air contaminant with no safe level of exposure and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board found that second hand smoke is a cause of breast cancer in younger pre menopausal women and can cause new cases of asthma, increases the risk of preterm delivery and

WHEREAS, second hand smoke has joined benzene, arsenic, and diesel exhaust on the Toxic Air Contaminant list and

WHEREAS, second hand smoke is linked to 400 additional lung cancer deaths a year in nonsmokers and 3,600 deadly heart attacks and 31,000 asthma attacks in children each year in California and

WHEREAS, the Air Resources Board found that concentrations of second hand smoke in some outdoor locations can reach levels as high as indoor locations depending on the number of cigarettes being smoked and wind conditions and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Surgeon General's Report on Second hand smoke found that exposure to second hand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and interferes with the normal functioning of the heart, blood, and vascular systems in ways that increase the risk for heart attack and,

WHEREAS, the 2006 Surgeon General's Report on Second Hand Smoke found that concentrations of many cancer-causing and toxic chemicals are higher in second hand smoke than in the smoke inhaled by smokers and,

WHEREAS, although Californians appear to have lower exposure to second hand smoke than elsewhere in the U.S., California adults are receiving significant exposure at the workplace, home and other indoor locations while children are most exposed in the home and

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WHEREAS, in spite of bans on smoking in most indoor workplaces and several bans in outdoor locations throughout the state, 56% of California adults, 64% of adolescents and 38% of children are currently being exposed to second hand smoke and

WHEREAS, 15% of San Francisco adults are smokers with 9% being regular smokers and 6% occasional smokers and

WHEREAS, 18-24 year olds have had the highest rates of smoking of any age group since 1996 and nearly a third of young adult smokers report that they only smoked when others were smoking, and

WHEREAS, policies that restrict outdoor tobacco use not only reduce exposure to second hand smoke but also contribute to changes in social norms around smoking, and

WHEREAS, people of color are disproportionately being exposed to second hand smoke in the workplace, particularly in areas where smoking is still allowed as workers in hotels, outdoor dining areas, and security guards near building entrances, and

WHEREAS, Latinos and Asians have the highest exposure to second hand smoke in indoor workplaces according the California Department of Health Services Tobacco Control Successes in California Final Report, October 2003, Latinos had the highest rate of exposure to second hand smoke in the workplace, followed by Asians, and

WHEREAS, most of the protections from involuntary second hand smoke exposure were adopted over 10 years ago and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence has demonstrated that second hand smoke is more dangerous than previously thought; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Tobacco Free Coalition has proposed expanding protection from second hand smoke by (1) closing loopholes to the California Smoke Free Workplace Law by removing exemptions for owner operated bars, tobacco shops, portions of hotel and motel lobbies, increasing the percentage of guest rooms that must be set aside as smoke free to 75% in tourist accommodations; (2) providing smoke free environments in outdoor locations including outdoor dining areas, outdoor recreation areas such as street fairs, sports stadiums and those areas currently exempted in Health Code Article 19I; service lines and waiting areas; and within 20 feet of building entrances, exits and operable windows; and (3) protecting residents of multi unit residences by a) banning smoking in enclosed common areas, b) declaring second hand smoke as a

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nuisance in commercial units adjacent to private residential units, c) requiring that at least 75% of existing units in multi unit complexes be designated as smoke free with phase in for currently occupied units with smoking tenants and d) requiring at least 90% of new multi residence units be designated as smoke free; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Health Commission endorses the policies proposed by the San Francisco Tobacco Free Coalition to expand protections from second hand smoke

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission forwards this resolution to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of October 17, 2006 adopted the foregoing resolution.

Michele M. Seaton
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission