

RESOLUTION NO. 749

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LOCAL AUTHORITY TO REGULATE SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

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, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, the National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of 53,000 Americans annually and the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization determined that scientific evidence has firmly established that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, a pollutant that causes serious illness in adults and children, and that there is indisputable evidence that implementing 100% smoke-free environments is the only effective way to protect the population from the harmful effects of exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is particularly hazardous to individuals with cardiovascular disease, individuals with impaired respiratory function, including asthmatics and those with obstructive airway disease, and elderly people; and

WHEREAS, children exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased risk of asthma, respiratory infections, sudden infant death syndrome, physical and cognitive developmental abnormalities, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, data consistently demonstrates that secondhand smoke exposure increases the risk of coronary heart disease and heart attacks and that smoke-free laws reduce heart attacks; and

WHEREAS, the people in local communities should have the right to protect themselves against the harmful effects of secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the right and responsibility to adopt laws that protect the health and safety of their citizens and more than 4,579 local governments throughout the country have successfully passed smoke-free air laws to protect people against the harmful effects of secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry, in an effort to negate such local legislation, has long had as its chief legislative strategy the preemption of local authority to regulate tobacco and preemptive state laws have a devastating effect on tobacco control efforts and on the public health of the states' residents and workers; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of states do not preempt local smoke-free air legislation and multiple states have successfully overturned preemption and restored local control to enact and enforce smoke-free air laws; and

WHEREAS, protecting people from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke is best accomplished by local communities working directly with the people most affected by smoke-free air laws; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly should not deprive local governments of the authority to protect people from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Clinton, Tennessee urges the Tennessee General Assembly to repeal any preemption of local smoke-free air and other tobacco-related laws, and restore the right of local governments to enact and enforce smoke-free air and other tobacco-related laws.

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2017.



Mayor Scott Burton



Regina Ridenour, City Recorder