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**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-15**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING  
100% SMOKE-FREE INDOOR WORKPLACES IN CALIFORNIA**

**WHEREAS**, secondhand smoke is toxic, as evidenced by the following:

- Secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 substances, including at least 250 chemicals known to be toxic or to cause cancer, including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, ammonia and hydrogen cyanide; and
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A Carcinogen and therefore concludes that secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard; and
- The California Air Resources Board has categorized secondhand smoke as a toxic air contaminant, in the same category as diesel exhaust; and
- The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has included secondhand smoke on the Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm; and
- The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure of secondhand smoke; and

**WHEREAS**, exposure to secondhand smoke causes death and disease, as evidenced by the following:

- Secondhand smoke has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease and asthma in both smokers and nonsmokers; and
- Over 4,000 nonsmokers in California die annually from diseases caused by secondhand smoke exposure; and
- Secondhand smoke exposure causes children to suffer from lower respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis; it also increases the risk of acute chronic middle ear infection in children; and
- Secondhand smoke exposure adversely affects fetal growth with elevated risk of low birth weight and increased risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in infants of mothers who smoke; and

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- The Institute of Medicine report *Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Cardiovascular Effects: Making Sense of the Evidence* presents scientific evidence that smoke-free laws prevent heart attacks and save lives. The report's evidence is consistent with other studies that have found a casual relationship between secondhand smoke exposure and acute coronary events, including heart attacks; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, California worksites and public places are locations where

7 children, members of the community and employees are exposed to secondhand

8 smoke; and certain groups are reporting higher levels of exposure at indoor

9 workplaces, as evidenced by the following:

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- California is not considered a 100 percent smoke-free state by the nation's leading public health agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Twenty-four other states and the District of Columbia are currently considered to have 100 percent smoke-free indoor workplaces-leaving California far behind; and
  - California passed the nation's first comprehensive smoke-free workplace law in 1994. Although the law protects a majority of California's workers, exemptions were left in that did not protect everyone; and
  - Certain groups of Californians continue to be exposed to higher levels of secondhand smoke in the workplace, including low income workers; young adults and Hispanics; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, exposure to secondhand smoke imposes great social and

20 economic costs, as evidenced by the following:

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- Nationally, the total for direct medical care costs associated with secondhand smoke is estimated to be \$5 billion each year and another \$5 billion each year for indirect costs; and
  - Smoke-free policies do not have a negative economic impact on businesses; and
  - Smoke-free air policies protect the public from exposure to secondhand smoke, and help smokers reduce the number of cigarettes consumed or quit entirely; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, the only way to protect people from breathing secondhand

28 smoke inside is to require all workplaces and public places be smoke-free. Other

29 approaches, such as smoking rooms or air ventilation systems do not provide protection from the toxic effects of secondhand smoke; and

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2       **WHEREAS**, 100% smoke-free policies would help protect the health of  
3 all Californians; and

4       **WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the government to protect the public  
5 health and welfare of their citizens.

6       **WHEREAS**, SB 575 would expand the prohibition on smoking in the workplace  
7 by eliminating many existing exemptions, and as amended April 6, 2011 passed the  
8 Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee on a 5-2 vote April 13, 2011 and is  
9 scheduled for a vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee May 2, 2011.

10       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Albany City Council  
11 endorses a legislative effort to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure at all  
12 California indoor worksites and efforts towards making California 100% smoke-  
13 free.

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Farid Javandel  
Mayor