

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Health gathers data about tobacco use by children in this state; and

WHEREAS, the Department's most recent Tennessee Youth Tobacco Survey shows that 41.3% of high school students and 23.2% of middle school students use tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, more than 80% of the adults who use tobacco products began using them before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, more than 9,600 Tennesseans die each year from causes linked to tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, the medical costs attributable to smoking exceed \$1.69 billion in Tennessee every year; and

WHEREAS, tobacco smoke is a major indoor air pollutant containing 200 known poisons and 43 known carcinogens; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke exposure has been documented to cause increased respiratory infections, asthma and other illnesses and increases the risk of lung cancer and heart attacks; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Surgeon General's 2000 Report "Reducing Tobacco Use" concluded that strong clean indoor air regulations will decrease tobacco consumption among smokers, will increase smoking cessation efforts, and will contribute to changing social norms about tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, more than 900 local governments throughout the country have adopted some type of partial or complete restriction on smoking in buildings; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 the Tennessee General Assembly passed a law (T.C.A. 39-17-1551) which prohibits local governments from adopting any law regulating tobacco products in any way – a concept known as preemption; and

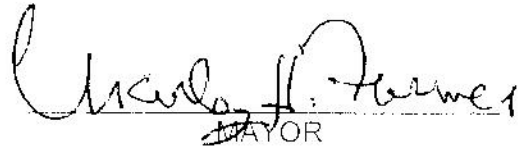
WHEREAS, local governments in Tennessee should have the right to protect the health and welfare of their citizens by adopting local laws and ordinances restricting the purchase and use of tobacco products by minors and promoting clean indoor air in buildings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, TENNESSEE:

Section 1. The Tennessee General Assembly is hereby urged to repeal T.C.A. 39-17-1551 so that local governments in Tennessee will once again have the right to protect the health and safety of their citizens by enacting such laws and ordinances that they deem appropriate regarding tobacco products. The Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Tennessee General Assembly representing Jackson.

Section 2. This resolution will become effective 30 (thirty) days after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.


Penny Jones
CITY RECORDER


Charles H. Farmer
MAYOR