

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 585

Approved October 4, 2002

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Providence expressly finds and declares that:

1. Cigarette smoking is dangerous to human health.
2. There exists substantial scientific evidence that the use of tobacco products causes cancer, heart disease and various other medical disorders.
3. The Surgeon General of the United States has declared that nicotine addiction from tobacco is similar to addiction to cocaine, and is the most widespread example of drug dependence in this country.
4. The Director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse concluded that the majority of the three hundred twenty thousand (320,000) Americans who die each year from cigarette smoking became addicted to nicotine as adolescents before the age of legal consent.
5. The National Institute on Drug Abuse found that cigarette smoking precludes and may be predictive of adolescent illicit drug use.
6. Experts agree that the leading cause of death and disease in Rhode Island is related to tobacco use. Approximately two thousand (2,000) people, one-fifth of all deaths in Rhode Island, die from tobacco-related disease every year.
7. The Rhode Island General Assembly has found that the use of tobacco by Rhode Island children is a health and substance abuse problem of the utmost severity. The legislature found both that tobacco product usage by children -- in Rhode Island is both pervasive and growing. Over thirty percent (30%) of high school students smoke.
8. Existing laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco to children is being ignored by many retailers. Rhode Island tobacco retailers illegally sell over four million packs, over eleven million dollars in tobacco product sales, to children annually.
9. The United States Congress found that over the past twenty (20) years tobacco industry advertising has targeted children as replacement smokers for the one thousand one hundred forty-five (1,145) adults who die daily from tobacco product usage. Approximately seventy percent (70%) of the Rhode Island high school seniors who are smoking today will become addicted adult smokers.
10. As a result of that conduct, several states, including Rhode Island, have reached a multi-billion dollar settlement with the tobacco companies. Rhode Island will be the recipient of \$1.4 billion over a 25-year period.

APPROVED

John Lombardi

MAYOR

John Lombardi

OCT 04 2002

THE COMMITTEE ON

Ordinances
Recomm. *and* approval
Anna M. Stetson

9-23-02

CLERK

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON
ORDINANCES

Councilman Aponte & Councilwoman Williams, By Request

- 11. In Rhode Island, medical costs directly related to smoking exceed one hundred eighty-six million dollars (\$186,000,000.00). This is A continuing and ever-escalating financial burden borne by every Business and every person in Rhode Island. This is a health and economic drain created by each new generation of children who begin using tobacco products and become addicted to nicotine.
- 12. Most United States health experts agree that the use of tobacco Products by minors is the most important public health issue of modern times.
- 13. To improve the compliance rate among tobacco retailers in Providence and to inform unsuspecting parents of minor children who smoke, a program monitored by the City of Providence is warranted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Providence preserve and protect the health of the children of Providence by (1) stopping or reducing the illegal sale of tobacco products to, and the illegal use of tobacco products by children; (2) penalizing those who disregard the laws relating to the illegal sale of tobacco products to, and use of tobacco products by children; and (3) informing parents that their minor children are violating state law by engaging in the use of tobacco products, and (4) having the Providence Police Department energetically enforce the provisions of R.I.G.L. §23-20.9-1, et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Providence School Department immediately include alternative therapeutic counseling as a penalty for violation of any School Department regulation prohibiting the use of tobacco products.

CITY COUNCIL
OCT 3 2002
READ AND PASSED

Robert A. Young
PRES. ACTING

Michael R. Clement
CLERK

John Lombardi

OCT 04 2002

APPROVED
John Lombardi

MAYOR