

RESOLUTION

A resolution requesting the Tennessee General Assembly to repeal any and preemption of local smoke-free air and other tobacco-related laws.

Whereas, as early as 1992, the City Council for the City of Crossville adopted a smoke-free work environment ordinance in recognition of the risks for smokers and non-smokers in developing diseases related to cigarette smoke and the employer's responsibility to provide a healthy work environment; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Supreme Court held in 1986 that it is the employer's responsibility to provide a healthy environment and the non-smoker has the right to work in a healthy environment; and

Whereas, the City Council for the City of Crossville believes that it is important to extend these rights to its citizens and visitors by providing a healthy environment in various buildings, parks, and other venues owned and operated by the City of Crossville; and

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

Whereas, the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen; and

Whereas, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's report, *"The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke,"* concluded that there is 1) no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; 2) ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; 3) smoke-free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace, and 4) evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke-free policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry; 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

Whereas, 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

Whereas, 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

Whereas, 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 City Council for the City of Crossville 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, especially in the buildings, parks, and venues that they own and operate.

And be it further resolved, that the City Council for the City of Crossville strongly encourages other local governmental entities in Tennessee to adopt similar resolutions.

ADOPTED, this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Mayor

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

ATTEST:

City Clerk