



# Board of Education

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## Tobacco Prevention and Awareness

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### RESOLUTION NO. 20-21/50

#### *Endorsing Public Policies to Protect Lynwood Families Living in Multi-Unit Housing from Drifting Tobacco Smoke*

**WHEREAS**, Tobacco-related illness is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, accounting for as many as 443,000 deaths each year [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Smoking, secondhand smoke, and third hand smoke includes tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and marijuana vaping devices; and,

**WHEREAS**, Tobacco products are highly addictive. E-cigarette use increased 10 times among high school students from 2011-15, and teens who use E-cigarettes are 4 times more likely to start smoking regular cigarettes [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Smoking of any kind doubles the risk of developing lung infections such as COVID-19 and lung injury such as EVALI [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Secondhand smoke is the smoke from the burning end of the cigarette and the exhaled breath of the smoker [4]. Third-hand smoke is the residual contamination on household surfaces and dust; and,

**WHEREAS**, Secondhand smoke is responsible for as many as 73,000 deaths among non-smokers each year in the United States due to secondhand tobacco exposure [5]. The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, According to the most recent report from the U.S. Surgeon General, secondhand cigarette smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals and compounds. Hundreds are toxic and more than 70 cause cancer [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, "Tobacco smoke travels from its point of generation in a building to all other areas of the building. It has been shown to move through light fixtures, through ceiling crawl spaces, and into and out of doorways [8]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Secondhand smoke can drift into and out of open windows and doorways [9]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Secondhand smoke OUTSIDE has been placed in the same category as the most toxic automotive and industrial air pollutants by the California Air Resources Board [10]; and,

**WHEREAS**, A study conducted by UCLA to residents living in apartment buildings shows that vulnerable populations are disproportionately exposed to secondhand smoke, and 71% of families living with children

and others with chronic health conditions expressed that secondhand smoke exposure worsen their health [11]; and

**WHEREAS**, in an survey poll the city of Lynwood conducted by FAME, more than 50% of respondents reported exposure to secondhand smoke where they live, and 99% agree on the regulation of smoking in Multi-Unit Housing [12]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lead is a component of tobacco and tobacco smoke. Secondhand smoke could be associated with increased blood lead levels in U.S. children aged 4-16 years [13]; and,

**WHEREAS**, 84% of children who live in apartments with parents who don't smoke showed evidence of exposure to tobacco smoke, according to a research study reported by the American Academy of Pediatrics [14]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Long-term adverse outcomes in children, whether through secondhand smoke or third-hand smoke exposure, include cognitive impairment, reduced lung function and development, and deficits in reading, math, and visuospatial reasoning [15], and,

**WHEREAS**, Children who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to suffer from pneumonia, bronchitis, and ear infections. Secondhand smoke may also cause thousands of healthy children to develop asthma each year. Children who have asthma will have more asthma attacks, and the episodes can be more severe [16]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Persons with chronic illnesses, the elderly, and children especially need to be protected from exposure to tobacco smoke. "Children's respiratory systems are highly vulnerable to harm from tobacco smoke" [17]; and,

**WHEREAS**, There is a California Law SB332 signed by Governor Brown, allows landlords to regulate smoking in apartment rental units; and,

**WHEREAS**, California law declares anything which is injurious to health or obstructs the free use of property so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property, is a nuisance. Because of all that is known about secondhand smoke, it should be considered a nuisance; and,

**WHEREAS**, State, county, and local smoking cessation services, available through the Lynwood Unified Health Collaborative referral system, can help individuals who smoke to successfully quit smoking; and,

**WHEREAS**, Recognizing the dangers of secondhand smoke, Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education commits to providing awareness and prevention resources to students and families in the city of Lynwood, by providing educational workshops on the dangers of secondhand smoke to students and families at each elementary and secondary school in the District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education commits to continue providing awareness, prevention, and cessation services to the Lynwood community to support and protect our Lynwood families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education supports the passage of public policies protecting individuals and families from drifting secondhand tobacco smoke in multi-unit residences, including policies requiring multi-unit apartment buildings to be smoke free.

**Passed and adopted** by the Governing Board of the Lynwood Unified School District on June 3, 2021.

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Maria G. Lopez - Board President

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[2] California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program. *State Health Officer's Report on E-Cigarettes: A Community Health Threat*, 2015

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[4] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Secondhand Smoke: An Unequal Danger*, 2015

[5] US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC. *Fact Sheet - Secondhand Smoke*. 2006

[6] US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 2007

[7] U.S Department of Health and Human Services. *A report of the Surgeon General*. CDC. 2010

[8] John Howard, M.D. Chief of CAL OSHA, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health at a Legislative Hearing, 1994;

[9] Apte, M.G. et al. "Indoor Transport of Environmental Tobacco Smoke Particles and Tracers." (Conference proceedings, August 1999, Berkeley, CA: Indoor Environment)

[10] Resolution 06-01, Cal. Air Resources Bd. (2006)

[11] UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, *Inequities in Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Multi-Unit Housing*, June 2015

[12] 2019 Multi-unit Housing Public Opinion Survey. Tobacco Control & Prevention Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

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[14] Karen Wilson, M.D., M.P.H., AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence, reported by American Academy of Pediatrics. December 2010

[15] Douglas E. Levy, PHD, Jonathan Winickoff, MD, MPH, and Nancy A. Rigotti, MD. "School Absenteeism Among Children Living with Smokers." American Academy of Pediatrics. September 2, 2011

[16] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Officer of Air and Radiation, March 1999

[17] Norman H. Edelman, Chief Medical Officer of the American Lung Association, Children at Risk in Multi-Unit Housing." December, 2010