

# Resolution

## Endorsing public policies to protect tenants in multi-unit housing from drifting tobacco smoke

*W* **hereas**, "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;"<sup>1</sup> and

*W* **hereas**, Secondhand smoke can drift into and out of open windows and doorways;<sup>2</sup> and

*W* **hereas**, Secondhand smoke has been exposed as a health risk for almost 20 years. Smoke from the burning end of a cigarette contains over 4,000 chemicals, 40 of them carcinogens. The chemicals include formaldehyde, cyanide, arsenic, carbon monoxide, methane and benzene<sup>3</sup>; and

*W* **hereas**, in 1993, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a risk assessment which classified tobacco smoke as a Group A carcinogen in the same category as asbestos. That means it causes cancer and there is no known safe level of exposure; and

*W* **hereas**, 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<sup>4</sup>; and

*W* **hereas**, Persons with chronic illnesses, the elderly and children especially need to be protected from exposure to tobacco smoke; and

*W* **hereas**, a local ordinance that authorizes residential rental agreements to include a prohibition on smoking of tobacco products within rental units would not be prohibited by state law<sup>5</sup>; and

*W* **hereas**, a statewide scientific survey of California renters conducted by Goodwin Simon Strategic Research in May, 2004 found that 69% of California renters supported a law requiring that all apartment buildings offer non-smoking sections where all apartments, patios, and balconies in that section are smokefree.

*R* **esolved that** \_\_\_\_\_ 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 designate at least 50% of the rental units, including private patios and balconies, to be smokefree units.

**Organization/Business:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> John Howard, M.D. Chief of CAL OSHA, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health at a Legislative Hearing, 1994;

<sup>2</sup> Apte, M.G. et al. "Indoor Transport of Environmental Tobacco Smoke Particles and Tracers." (Conference proceedings, August 1999, Berkeley, CA: Indoor Environment)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Indoor Air Facts: Environmental Tobacco Smoke" 1989

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, March 1999

<sup>5</sup> Cal. Legislative Counsel Op., 21547, Secondhand Smoke in Multi-Unit Housing (Apartments & Condos) Smoking Bans: Residential Rental Property, (September 23, 1999).