

LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

1930 Ninth Avenue Helena, Montana 59601 Telephone 406-457-8900 Fax 406-457-8990

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTARY OUTDOOR SMOKE-FREE AREAS AND ENHANCED PRACTICES TO REDUCE OUTDOOR SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE IN PUBLIC PLACES.

WHEREAS, this resolution is in direct support of and aligned with the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act Implementation Protocol for Lewis and Clark County adopted November 16, 2009 by the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health.

WHEREAS, according to the aformentioned protocol, "smoking may not occur within a reasonable distance of an enclosed public place such that tobacco smoke may enter through it's entrances, windows, ventilation systems or other accesses and cirulate to non-smoking areas."

WHEREAS, according to the aformentioned protocol, "smoke means: a) the gaseous products (which carry airborne toxic particles) of buring tobacco or something similar to tobacco, or b) the fumes and/or vapor (which carry airborne toxic particles) resulting from the action of heat on a liquid such as occurs in an e-cigarette."

WHEREAS, creating smoke-free environments provide an opportunity to role model non-smoking behavior in our community, especially to children and youth; and

WHEREAS, smoke-free environments eliminate all smoking in common outdoor places of gathering, such as parks, community events and other public use areas such as city streets and sidewalks, and are a proven way to protect people from secondhand tobacco smoke, and

WHEREAS, used tobacco products are often discarded on the ground, posing a risk of ingestion to young children and animals, and causing significant litter problems requiring additional maintenance expense; and

WHEREAS, community surveys and assessment results indicate community support for the continued promotion of healthy activities and community wellness; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health recommends the City of Helena establish public-private partnerships in support of adopting enhanced smoke-free practices intended to protect public health by reducing instances of outdoor secondhand smoke within the City of Helena; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health seeks support from the Helena area residents, including private property and business owners, to responsibly designate smoke-free outdoor areas on their private property and at their places of business such that all patrons, employees, passersby and the greater Helena community alike are further protected from outdoor secondhand smoke; and



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WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health to provide for the public health, safety and welfare of the Helena community by discouraging the inherently dangerous behavior of smoking around non-tobacco users, especially children; by protecting the public from exposure to outdoor secondhand smoke where they live, work and play; and by affirming and promoting a healthy environment in the City of Helena.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

SECTION 1. City of Helena property and business owners are encouraged to undertake the establishment of enhanced smoke-free practices above and beyond current laws and protocols. Such as, adopting outdoor smoke-free areas thereby helping to ensure enhanced compliance with the Lewis and Clark County Clean Indoor Air Act Implementation Protocol and reducing the potential for outdoor exposure to secondhand smoke by the residents and visitors of Helena.

SECTION 2. City of Helena property and business owners voluntarily adopting enhanced smoke-free practices are asked to post in conspicuous places approved signage that can be easily read and understood notifying the public of these smoke-free areas; and, when applicable, identifying designated smoking area(s).

SECTION 3. The City of Helena and the Lewis and Clark Public Health will utilize community and state resources to undertake community awareness and education efforts and provide technical assistance and resources regarding outdoor smoke-free practices within the City of Helena. Such efforts may include; the provision of signs and postings, educational and training materials, and sample practices made available to property and business owners, and notification to the community at large, about the existence of this outdoor smoke-free resolution and educational opportunities that exist.

And, be it further resolved that the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health directs and supports the Lewis and Clark Public Health to continue its advocacy and engagement toward realizing the actions contained in the board's appeal, and its collective work with local partners to establish voluntary outdoor smoke-free areas and enhanced practices to reduce outdoor secondhand smoke exposure in public places.

Adopted by the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health on this day, Thursday, July 25, 2019.

Justin Murgel, Chair