



**LEWIS AND CLARK
CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Resolution in Support for
**Lewis & Clark County and City of Helena Tobacco-Free Parks
Policy**

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, and asthma in both smokers and nonsmokers¹; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the United States Surgeon General determined that secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; that children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems and more severe asthma; that smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children; and that scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke²; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that, during active smoking, outdoor levels of secondhand smoke may be as high as indoor levels and may pose a health risk for people in close proximity (such as sitting next to someone on a park bench, or children accompanying a smoking parent or guardian)³; and

WHEREAS, the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation reports close to 500 municipalities have eliminated exposure to secondhand smoke with 100% Smoke Free Parks, and 100 municipalities have eliminated exposure to secondhand smoke with 100% Smoke Free Beaches⁴; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that smoking and smokeless tobacco use are almost always initiated and established during adolescence, that most people who begin smoking during adolescence are addicted by the age of 20, and that adolescent smokeless tobacco users are more

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Smoking and Tobacco Use Fast Facts, http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts.

² U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*.

³ Neil E. Klepeis, Wayne R. Ott, and Paul Switzer, *Real-time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles*, Neil E. Klepeis, Etienne B. Gabel, Wayne R. Ott, and Paul Switzer, *Outdoor Air Pollution in Close Proximity to a Continuous Point Source*.

⁴ American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, Municipalities with Smoke-free Parks Laws, <http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/SmokefreeParks.pdf>.

"To Improve and Protect the Health of All Lewis and Clark County Residents."

