



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RESOLUTION NO. 160799

Introduced September 15, 2016

Councilmembers Bass and Domb

RESOLUTION

Acknowledging the efforts of the Philadelphia Health Department and Board of Health to reduce the high rate of smoking in low-income neighborhoods and calling attention to the intense marketing efforts in these neighborhoods to encourage smoking.

WHEREAS, Tobacco use contributed to the deaths of 2,152 Philadelphians, accounting for 15.4% of all deaths in the City in 2012; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 the tobacco industry spent an estimated \$54 million in marketing expenditures in Philadelphia, including ads and price discounts; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia has 3,455 active tobacco retailers, according to City data, more than double the number per capita as Washington D.C., Chicago, San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, about 48 percent of tobacco retailers were located in low-income zip codes in Philadelphia while 33 percent were located in mixed income zip codes and 19 percent were located in high-income zip codes; and

WHEREAS, K-12 schools in low-income zip codes had on average 63% more tobacco retailers within 500 feet than schools in a high income zip code; and

WHEREAS, Local year-round sales investigations reveal that one in five tobacco retailers in the City sell cigarettes illegally to youth, according to the Philadelphia Health Department; and

WHEREAS, 12% of tobacco retailers do not post required signage to prevent illegal tobacco sales to minors, with even higher rates of non-compliance among non-chain pharmacies, takeout restaurants, and check-cashing sites; and

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RESOLUTION NO. 160799 continued

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Board of Health recently approved a set of regulations geared toward discouraging tobacco use in low-income neighborhoods, allowing only one tobacco retailer for every 1,000 residents by planning district; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco retailers will no longer be able to establish themselves within 500 feet of K-12 schools, not including existing retailers who renew their permit and follow the law; and

WHEREAS, The board also decided that retailers who are cited three times within two years will not be allowed to sell tobacco for a year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby acknowledges the efforts of the Philadelphia Health Department and Board of Health to reduce the high rate of smoking in low-income neighborhoods and calling attention to the intense marketing efforts in these neighborhoods to encourage smoking.