

**Resolution
of the
Residents' Association**

Regarding smoke-free polices for [Apartment Building Name]

Whereas, the U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that the scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke;¹ and

Whereas, secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke;² and

Whereas, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers has concluded that the only means of effectively eliminating health risk associated with indoor exposure is to ban smoking activity;³ and

Whereas, secondhand smoke causes almost 50,000 deaths in adult non-smokers in the United States each year, including approximately 3,400 from lung cancer and another 22,000 to 69,000 from heart disease;⁴ and

Whereas, people spend more time in their homes than in any other location;⁵ and

Whereas, fires caused by smoking are the leading cause of deaths in multifamily buildings;⁶ and

Whereas, the fatality rate due to smoking-related fires is nearly 4 times higher than the overall residential fire rate; injuries are more than twice as likely;⁷ and

Whereas, in 2008, the average dollar loss per residential structure fire in Minnesota was nearly \$20,000 per incident,⁸ and

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

² *Id.*

³ American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. *ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke*. June 25, 2008.

⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. *Notice: PIH-2009-21 (HA)*. Office of Public and Indian Housing and Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. July 17, 2009.

⁵ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Table 1. Time spent in primary activities and percent of the civilian population engaging in each activity, averages per day by sex, 2008 annual averages*. Economic News Release.

⁶ HUD, *supra* note 4.

⁷ U.S. Fire Administration, "Residential Smoking Fires and Casualties," 2005

⁸ Minnesota Fire Marshal, "Fire in Minnesota," 2008

Whereas, the turnover costs associated with apartments vacated by smokers are substantially higher than apartments occupied by non-smokers;⁹ and

Whereas, nearly three quarters (72%) of Americans with incomes under \$20,000 a year are non-smokers¹⁰ and 76.8% of Minnesotans with a household income under \$35,000 are non-smokers or former smokers;¹¹ and

Whereas, smoking rates are low in those populations disproportionately represented in low-income housing: more than 90% of persons age 65 and older do not smoke; more than 75% of African Americans do not smoke; and approximately 85% of Hispanics are non-smokers;¹² and

Whereas, numerous surveys, including a 2009 survey of Twin Cities renters, have demonstrated that renters would prefer to live in smoke-free apartments;¹³ and

Whereas, approximately 230 public housing authorities around the country have adopted some form of smoke-free policy, including housing authorities in Seattle, Washington; Helena, Montana; Bangor, Maine; Lincoln, Nebraska; Boulder, Colorado; Portland, Oregon; and over 50 housing authorities in Minnesota;¹⁴ and

Whereas, the U.S. Surgeon General in June of 2009 published a “Call to Action to Promote Healthy Home,” stating that “adopting smoke-free rules in homes reduces involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke and improves health;¹⁵ and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC) published its Healthy Homes Strategic Plan in June 2009 that listed smoke-free housing as a critical public health need and stated that OHHLHC “will continue to support...efforts within assisted housing by collaborating with the program offices to encourage further adoption of smoke free policies;”¹⁶

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital and Health Statistics, *Summary of Health Statistics for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2006*, Series 10, Number 235 Table XV, p. 135 (December 2007).

¹¹ Tobacco Use in Minnesota: 1999-2007, Minnesota Adult Tobacco Survey, full report available at http://www.mntobacco.nonprofitoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={ECE0A1FF-DC5A-4C9C-AA08-8E9A97B14D07}.

¹² *Cigarette Smoking Among Adults and Trends in Smoking Cessation—United States, 2008*. MMWR, November 13, 1009, 58(44); 1227-1232.

¹³ Full report available at http://www.mnsmokefreehousing.org/documents/2009_Metro_tenants_SHS_survey_final_report.pdf.

¹⁴ Full listing available at <http://www.tcsg.org/sfelp/home.htm>.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General 19 (2009).

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. *Leading Our Nation to Healthier Homes: The Healthy Homes Strategic Plan*. Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control 17 (June 2009).

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved by the Residents' Association:

That the Residents' Association strongly encourages the property owners and managers of [Apartment Building Name] to implement a smoke-free policy for our property.