

RESOLUTION NO.: 2015 - 04

SUBJECT: Support of Youth Access Prevention of Non-Cigarette Tobacco Products in Colorado Springs

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 22, 2015

RESOLUTION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, the mission of El Paso County Public Health is to promote and protect the public health and environmental quality in the community through people, prevention and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, contributing to the deaths of 480,000 people each year; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado an estimated \$1.8 billion is spent annually on health care costs directly related to tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, 90% of adult tobacco users began using tobacco before the age of 18, the legal age to purchase tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, more than 60% of Colorado youth under the age of 18 who attempt to purchase tobacco are successful; and

WHEREAS, in a one-year period from 2013-2014, e-cigarette use tripled among middle and high school students, no decline was seen in overall tobacco use among middle or high school students, and e-cigarette use surpassed the use of every other tobacco product overall, including conventional cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, Colorado state law requires the licensing of retail establishments selling liquor, medical marijuana and retail marijuana for the purpose of protecting public health and welfare, but does not require the licensing of retail establishments selling non-cigarette tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is one of only nine states that do not require retailers to have a license to sell tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado, a home rule municipality, has the authority to license and regulate businesses located within its jurisdiction and does in fact license several types of businesses; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Steamboat Springs, Fountain, Manitou Springs, Golden, Pueblo, and Rocky Ford have successfully passed tobacco retailer licensing; and

WHEREAS, active enforcement programs that include the licensing of tobacco retailers have been shown to be the most significant factor in reducing illegal tobacco sales to minors, and 56% of Colorado Springs voters support establishing licensing regulations; and

WHEREAS, the licensing of tobacco retailers benefits those businesses that comply with the tobacco laws by removing the economic advantage of those that conduct illegal sales; and

WHEREAS, El Paso County Public Health has worked with community stakeholders to draft an ordinance requiring the licensing of tobacco retailers for presentation to the Colorado Springs City Council; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Board of Health supports the efforts of Public Health staff and encourages the Colorado Springs City Council to adopt non-cigarette tobacco retailer licensing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AS FOLLOWS:

1. In furtherance of the mission of El Paso County Public Health and in recognition of the public health dangers of tobacco use and the benefit of a retail licensing program, the El Paso County Board of Health supports the presentation of an ordinance licensing tobacco retailers to the Colorado Springs City Council.
2. The El Paso County Board of Health respectfully requests and encourages the Colorado Springs City Council to consider adoption of an ordinance requiring the licensing of retail businesses that sell non-cigarette tobacco products.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 22, 2015.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: _____

President

ATTEST: _____

Secretary