

Ottawa County Government

Tobacco Free Vapor Free

Resolution Number ____2020-01____Committing Ottawa County Government to Adopt and Implement a Tobacco Free Vapor Free Policy.

FINDINGS

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and well-being of the employees of Ottawa County Government are critical for a prosperous and sustainable County and

WHEREAS, a higher percentage of Oklahoma adults smoke than the national average⁶; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in the United States, killing more than 7,500 Oklahomans every year⁷; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use causes cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illnesses⁸; and

WHEREAS, tobacco smoke contains at least 250 harmful chemicals and at least 69 known carcinogens,⁸ and there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke⁹; and

WHEREAS, many vapor products have been shown to emit chemicals known to cause cancer^{10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16}; and

WHEREAS, approximately 24% of adults in Oklahoma have tried vapor products,¹⁷ and vapor product use has the potential to expose children, youth, pregnant women, and other people to aerosolized nicotine¹⁸; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma has spent \$1.62 billion in a single year on smoking-related medical care and lost \$2.1 billion in one year due to smoking-related lost productivity⁷; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use annually costs employers at least \$5,800 per person who smokes in direct health care expenses, lost productivity due to sick days and smoke breaks, and lower productivity because of nicotine addiction²¹; and

WHEREAS, more than 55 peer-reviewed research studies have shown that tobacco-free policies reduce tobacco use, exposure to secondhand smoke, and tobacco-related illnesses and death²⁵; and

Exhibit A. TOBACCO FREE AND VAPOR FREE POLICY

Ottawa County Government commits to supporting employees' access to clean air by limiting exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and secondhand vapor by doing the following:

- A. Supporting existing local and state laws that prohibit Smoking and the use of Tobacco Products and Vapor Products in Indoor Areas and on Municipal Property, through educational materials, requisite signage, and enforcement assistance where applicable;
- B. Updating and enforcing the Tobacco Policy at Ottawa County Government;
- C. Prohibiting employees from Smoking or using Tobacco Products or Vapor Products in personal vehicles during all hours of employment while such vehicles are on Municipal Property;
- D. Providing cessation support for employees by doing the following:
 - Referring employees interested in quitting use of Tobacco Products and Vapor Products to the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline and other cessation resources, if available;
 - Promoting the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline (1-800-QUIT-NOW or OKHelpline.com) to ensure awareness of the statewide services that are available;
 - Providing insurance benefits and access to the following types of assistance with no prior authorization or out-of-pocket cost to the employee through Health Choice:

(A) Group, individual, and phone counseling:

- A minimum of 4 counseling sessions of at least 10 minutes each per attempt
- Two quit attempts per year
- Free cessation counseling is also offered by the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline (1-800-QUIT-NOW)

(B) All 7 FDA-approved cessation aids;

- Communicating and promoting the available tobacco cessation benefits and insurance coverage for employees to all

prospective employees, new employees at the time of hire, and all existing employees on an annual basis; and

E. Providing specific implementation and enforcement support for the local and state laws mentioned above, including but not limited to:

- Posting any required signs informing people of applicable tobacco-free and vapor-free laws and policies at entrances to all buildings on Municipal Property; and
- Including copies of applicable tobacco-free and vapor-free laws and policies in relevant municipal policy manuals, handbooks, or employee training materials. Employees are responsible for familiarizing themselves with these laws and policies and their applicable enforcement measures.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the intent of the Ottawa County Government that this Resolution is a general statement of Ottawa County Government policy that cannot form the basis of a private right of action.

SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution, or its application to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of this Resolution, or its application to any other person or circumstance. The Ottawa County Board Of Commissioners of the Ottawa County Government hereby declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases hereof be declared invalid or unenforceable.

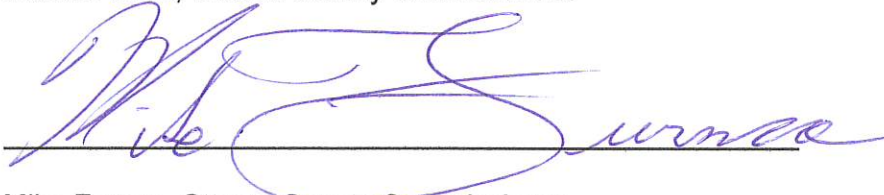
Effective Date: 2-03-2020



Chad Masterson, Ottawa County Commissioner, Chairman



Russell Earls, Ottawa County Commissioner



Mike Furnas, Ottawa County Commissioner

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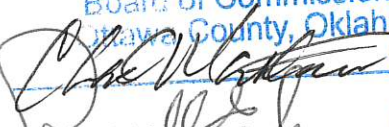
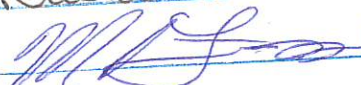
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Approved on 1-27-2020

Resolution to be on Monday's meeting

Request to discuss, and possible modification of Ottawa County's tobacco policy. Modification could include a no vaping policy.

APPROVED Date: 1-27-2020
Board of Commissioners
Ottawa County, Oklahoma
 Chairman
 Member
 Member

*Discussion and possible approval on Resolution 2020-01.
Tobacco and vapor free policy for Ottawa County Government.*