

The attached document was submitted to the
Washoe County Board of Commissioners during
the meeting held on 4-10-18.
by Mgr. Slaughter
for Agenda Item No. 12
and included here pursuant to NRS 241.020(8).

BCC 4-10-18 # 12
Mgr Slaughter

Correspondence
from
support

Mission Statement

"Building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke."

**2017-1018
Board of Directors
Officers**

President
Thomas-Duythuc To, MD

President Elect
Richard Bryan, MD

Chair
Ann Nelson

Chair Elect
BJ North

Leadership Dev Chair
Andrew Clinger

Immed Past President
Michael Bloch, MD

Immed Past Chair
Rick Casazza

Members
Shari Bainter
Jim Breslin
Iain L.O. Buxton, Pharm.D
Mendy Elliott
Ed Epperson, Pharm.D., M.P.A.
Aaron Heide, MD
Karen Meskimen, DNP
Marilyn Mora
Alan Olive
Gail Sande
Maria Sheehan, EdD
Lori Tuntland
Thomas Truong, DO

Staff Partner
Karen Rudd
Executive Director



April 6, 2018
Re: Smoke and Vape Free Parks
Position: Support

Dear Councilmembers,

For the record, my name is Ann Nelson. I am the Chair for the Northern Nevada American Heart and Stroke Association Board of Directors. The American Heart and Stroke Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. We fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide critical tools and information to save and improve lives. I am submitting this letter on behalf of our Board in support of the Smoke and Vape Free Parks agenda item 12.

Smokers aren't the only ones affected by tobacco smoke. Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard for nonsmokers, especially children. Nonsmokers who have high blood pressure or high blood cholesterol have an even greater risk of developing heart diseases when they're exposed to secondhand smoke. Additionally, exposure to e-cigarette liquid and vapor can be harmful. From late 2010 through early 2014, there was an increase in the number of calls to poison control centers due e-cigarette exposure which can include exposure to the nicotine refill liquids.

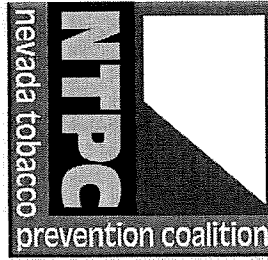
Secondhand tobacco smoke contributes to about 34,000 premature heart disease deaths and 7,300 lung cancer deaths yearly across our nation. Studies show that the risk of developing heart disease is about 25-30 percent higher among people exposed to environmental tobacco smoke at home or work. Secondhand smoke promotes illness, too. Children of smokers have many more respiratory infections than do children of nonsmokers.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report reveals that secondhand smoke causes disease in children. Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma. The Report also states that the scientific evidence about the dangers of secondhand smoke is clear: there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Our kids should be able to play at our local parks without being exposed to dangerous second-hand smoke and other dangerous toxins.

We echo the sentiments outlined in the Surgeon General's Report "there is no safe level of exposure" and support this effort to eliminate smoking and vaping at our parks.

Ann Nelson

Chair, Northern Nevada Board of Directors



April 9, 2018

RE: Agenda Item 12: Smoke-free Parks

Dear Washoe County Commissioners:

The Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition supports smoke-free and vape-free parks. As the state coalition for tobacco control, our members include non-profits, state and local health authorities, health care organizations, academia and others. Our mission is to improve the health of all Nevadans by reducing the burden of tobacco use and nicotine addiction.

Tobacco use continues to be the most preventable cause of disease and death, its toll undeniable and well documented. The annual cost to Nevada is over \$1 billion for care and treatment, including Medicaid costs. The cost to employers in lost productivity is similar.

Prohibiting smoking and vaping in public places is an effective approach to fulfilling NTPC's mission as well as protecting people from exposure to secondhand smoke and the aerosol produced by electronic cigarettes and other vapor products. In 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General determined there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. While the science is less definitive on the health risks from secondhand aerosol exposure, it's not a question of if there is risk, but how much.

In the broader context, NTPC supports efforts that focus on healthy communities and sustainable living, understanding the role prohibiting tobacco and e-cigarette use can play in those efforts. The proposal before you today are important steps in that direction.

In closing, NTPC thanks the Commission for its consideration to prohibit smoking and vaping in its parks. NTPC is willing and available to assist the Commission in any way it can.

Sincerely,

Michael Hackett
President, Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition
www.tobaccofreenv.org; michael@alrus.com
775.815.7081



April 5, 2018

RE: Smoke-Free Parks in Washoe County

Dear Washoe County Commissioners,

As the voice of public health in Nevada, the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) would like to express our support of agenda item 12 regarding smoke free parks. Tobacco use and exposure is the leading cause of death in our country and the more places we can designate in our community as smoke free, the more we can protect non-smokers from exposure to secondhand smoke and encourage quitting among those that smoke.

The Surgeon General released a report in 2006 that concluded "There is no safe amount of secondhand (tobacco) smoke. Breathing even a little secondhand smoke can be dangerous". Secondhand smoke exposure in outdoor spaces may be at lower levels than indoors, but the chemicals in the smoke whether indoors or outdoors are the same. These chemicals are dangerous, particularly for children and adults with heart and lung disease. Exposure to secondhand smoke can trigger breathing problems like asthma, aggravate allergies, and cause irritation of skin, eyes, nose and throat. The science on the health risks of second hand vapor from electronic cigarettes is not as substantiated as second hand tobacco smoke, but public health experts agree that the best thing for people to put in their lungs is clean air.

In Nevada, the most recent data shows that 16.5% of adult residents are current smokers, and the prevalence of smoking in Washoe County is even lower at 15.3% (BRFSS, 2016). Smoke free parks in the Truckee Meadows region will protect children as well as the 85% of non-smoking adults from exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor. Removing smoking from parks will also help create a culture of health in our region where we strengthen the non-smoking social norm for our children.

Expanding smoke free locations throughout Nevada is a high priority for NPHA, its members and communities. If there is any assistance that NPHA can offer related to smoke free efforts, please let us know by contacting myself, or the lead of our Advocacy and Policy Committee John Packham at (775) 784-1235 or jpackham@med.unr.edu.

Sincerely,

Brian Parrish, MPH
President, Nevada Public Health Association
E-mail: Briparrish35@yahoo.com / Web: www.nphaonline.org



KEEP TRUCKEE MEADOWS B E A U T I F U L

Dedicated to creating a cleaner, more beautiful region through education and active community involvement

April 2, 2018

OFFICERS

Jon Olsen, *President*
Kate Thomas*,
President-Elect
Tim Ruffin, *Treasurer*

TRUSTEES

Chris Anderson
Dean DeGidio
Tina Doherty
Peter Gower*
Debra Rutledge*
Bob Ulrich
Christina Stoever-
Young*

ADVISORY BOARD

Dave Bianchi*
Jeff Brigger*
Tim Crowley
Denise Evans
Daniel Gray
Johnny Hargrove
Daniel Inouye*
David Kolbet-Clausell
Shawn Lemmon
Cliff Low*
Gary Meckler
Drew Rolley
Stephen Salaber
Chuck Sweeney
Derek Thomas
Jeff Weagel
JD West
Jim Van Winkle*
**Past President*

BOARD EMERITUS

Dave Bianchi*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christi Cakiroglu, CCEP

P.O. Box 7412
Reno, NV 89510
775-851-5185
www.ktmb.org

Dear Washoe County Commission,

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) is dedicated to creating a cleaner, more beautiful region through education and active community involvement. KTMB would like to express our support of the smoke free parks initiative.

The use of tobacco and specifically cigarettes results in a significant amount of litter in area parks. KTMB volunteers who participate in our cleanup events like the Truckee River Cleanup Day and the Great Community Cleanup consistently report that cigarette butts are the number one piece of litter found. In addition to cigarette butts being unsightly, the chemicals in the improperly discarded cigarettes can get into our water supply where they contaminate the Truckee River, and cause harm to fish, pets and other wildlife. Cigarette butts and ash can start fires in our dry desert climate, and cleaning up cigarette litter is very time consuming and costly.

Information from Keep America Beautiful shows that tobacco litter makes up 31.5% of all litter in our parks and other outdoor recreation areas. Keep America Beautiful data also tells us that 85% of all butts are dropped on the ground, and of those, 37% are thrown into bushes and shrubbery, 25% are thrown on or around the area where an ash receptacle is placed, and 15% of are thrown into planters.

KTMB promotes and educates about proper disposal, but continues to clean up significant cigarette waste during cleanup events. Creating smoke free parks, trails and open spaces is supported by KTMB because in doing so cigarette waste is expected to be significantly reduced in these public places while reducing the risk of fire and protecting our waterways, pets and wildlife. Thank you for considering this important improvement to our community.

Sincerely,

Christi Cakiroglu
Executive Director