

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 99-240

Establishing a Citizen Task Force on Smokefree Workplaces

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Health hazards induced by breathing second-hand smoke include lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory infection, and decreased respiratory function, including broncho-constriction and broncho-spasm.
- b. Thirty-two percent (32%) of Multnomah County workers report being exposed to second-hand smoke in the workplace (1997 Tobacco Baseline Survey, Multnomah County Respondents. Oregon Health Division).
- c. Forty-three percent (43%) of food service workers in Multnomah County report being exposed to second-hand smoke while they are working (1998 Multnomah County Food Service Worker Survey).
- d. Secondhand smoke may be even more harmful to children because their bodies and lungs are not completely developed. Children exposed to secondhand smoke have higher rates of asthma attacks, sinus and ear infections, allergies, bronchitis, pneumonia, and croup.
- e. On this date, the Board considered the first reading of an Ordinance prohibiting smoking in places of employment, with notable exemptions including bars, lounges, pubs, bingo halls, and the bar portions of bar and restaurant combinations where the bar is separate from the restaurant.
- f. The Board seeks an assessment of the impact of extending the above prohibition of smoking in workplaces to include the exempted establishments. Such an assessment would include an examination of the history and impacts of similar ordinances in other jurisdictions and the effect that banning smoking in currently exempted establishments would have on public health, the food and beverage industry, and the local economy.

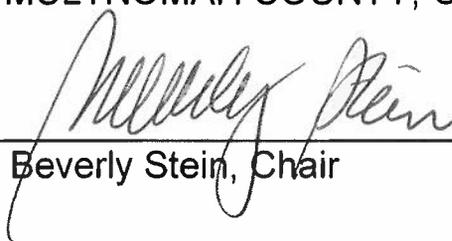
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Chair shall appoint a Task Force on Smokefree Workplaces, representative of the various stakeholders involved, including public health, advocacy groups, the restaurant and alcoholic beverage industry, those engaged in tourism, bingo, organized labor, and interested citizens.
2. The Task Force is charged with examining the potential implications of extending the prohibition on workplace smoking adopted today to those establishments exempted by the Ordinance, including bars and the bar portions of bar/restaurant combinations. Parameters for this assessment include the impact on local tourism, business/employment, public health, and the mechanics of enforcement.
3. The County Health Officer will be responsible for staffing the Task Force and assuring that it carries out its charge.
4. The Task Force will report its Findings to the Board of Commissioners on or before August 1, 2000.

Adopted this 9th day of December, 1999.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Beverly Stein, Chair

REVIEWED:

Thomas Sponsler, County Counsel
For Multnomah County, Oregon

By 

Katie Gaetjens, Assistant County Counsel