

RESOLUTION 2019-R_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE 86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT INCREASES THE LEGAL AGE FROM 18 TO 21 TO PURCHASE, ACCEPT, POSSESS, OR CONSUME CIGARETTES, E-CIGARETTES, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS, AS PROVIDED IN SENATE BILL 21 AND HOUSE BILL 749 AND SUPPORTED BY THE TEXAS 21 COALITION; AND REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATORS SUPPORT THESE BILLS BY VOTING IN FAVOR OF THIS LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, Texas 21 is a coalition of more than 75 public health groups that support raising the minimum legal age for purchasing tobacco related products, including e-cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, passing a law that will reduce tobacco use is a sound health policy; and

WHEREAS, 7 states¹ and over 440 localities, including San Antonio, Texas, have raised the legal minimum tobacco sale age to 21; and

WHEREAS, in December 2018, the U.S. Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Jerome M. Adams issued an advisory stressing the importance of protecting our youth from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and associated health risks by immediately addressing the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of high school age children reporting past 30-day use of e-cigarettes rose by more than 75% between 2017 and 2018²; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health³, over 80% of adult smokers smoked their first cigarette before they turned 18, and nearly 95% started before age 21; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Braunfels endorses efforts proposed by the Texas 21 Coalition to amend Texas law to raise the legal age for buying and consuming tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, so that we protect the health

¹ Hawaii, California, New Jersey, Oregon, Maine, Massachusetts, Virginia

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration National Youth Tobacco Survey

³ United States Department of Health and Human Services. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2016)

and safety of our youth; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this City Council that a copy of this resolution with appropriate names affixed be presented to the Governor of Texas, the leadership of the 86th Texas Legislature, and elected legislators that represent the City of New Braunfels interests in the House and the Senate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS:

THAT, the City of New Braunfels City Council hereby expresses its support and encourages the support of the state legislature for the following legislative reforms endorsed by Texas 21 Coalition to increase health and safety of our youth:

- Amend existing Texas law by raising the legal age from 18 to 21 for individuals to be sold or given a cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product, including other amendments as reflected in Senate Bill 21 and House Bill 749, that amend Chapter 161 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED on this the _____ day of April 2019.

City of New Braunfels, Texas

BARRON CASTEEL, Mayor

Attest:

PATRICK D. ATEN, City Secretary