



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Christine L. Haider Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

November 3, 2014

RESOLUTION FOR SMOKE-FREE HOUSING

Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of death and disease in the United States killing more than 480,000 Americans each year with an estimated 49,000 of these deaths from exposure to second-hand smoke. New York City previously passed smoking restrictions in 2002 and 2011 to include workplaces, restaurants, bars, parks, boardwalks, beaches, recreation centers, swimming pools and pedestrian plazas.

In an effort to expand smoking restrictions already in place, and to protect the health of others, we are recommending that owners of multi-family dwellings establish a smoke-free policy in their buildings.

Whereas, secondhand smoke negatively impacts the health of non-smoking individuals, including children, adults, seniors and disabled communities by causing or exacerbating asthma, upper respiratory infections, ear infections and sudden infant death syndrome; and,

Whereas, there is no safe level of secondhand smoke, and the removal of secondhand smoke is recommended by the United States Surgeon General's report of 2006 and the World Health Organization policy recommendation of 2007; and,

Whereas, careless smoking is the number one cause of death in home fires; and,

Whereas, according to the United States Fire Administration, approximately 25% of those killed in smoking related fires were not the actual smokers; and,

Whereas, more than 500,000 New York City adults and children are exposed to secondhand smoke; and,

Whereas, the exposure to secondhand smoke by non-smokers in multi-unit dwellings is involuntary due to seepage of smoke through hallways, vents, floorboards, air ducts, electrical outlets and walls; and

Whereas, Queens Community Board 11 acknowledges the principle that every City resident has the right to breathe smoke-free air where they reside,

Therefore, be it resolved that Queens Community Board 11 encourages owners and landlords of multi-family housing to create smoke-free housing units, to establish a smoke-free environment in their developments wherever possible and require owners of multi-unit housing including rentals, condos and co-ops, to disclose the building's smoking policy to current and prospective tenants.