

**IN SUPPORT OF
SMOKE-FREE HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE CAMPUSES**

WHEREAS, tobacco use continues to be an urgent public health challenge and is the number one killer of Alameda County residents, responsible for 17.2% of all deaths in Alameda County or 1,700 residents every year, dying 13 years earlier than if they had not used tobacco; and

WHEREAS, smoking costs Californians an estimated \$117.7 billion annually in medical bills, which in Alameda County accounts for approximately \$80 million of Medi-Cal expenditures per year spent on treating smoking-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke has been repeatedly identified as a health hazard, as evidenced by the U.S. Surgeon General concluding that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke and causes lower respiratory tract infections such as pneumonia and bronchitis in as many as 300,000 children in the United States under the age of 18 months each year; and exacerbates childhood asthma; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County has the second highest asthma rate in California with pediatric emergency department visits double that of the State; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime asthma prevalence in Alameda County is 16.6% and secondhand smoke has been identified as a major trigger for asthma symptoms as well as a cause of asthma; and

WHEREAS, creating smoke-free areas helps protect the health of all Californians; and

WHEREAS, Children’s Hospital Oakland recently joined other medical center campuses, including Alameda County Medical Center, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, and Kaiser Permanente-Northern California, in becoming a smoke-free and leader in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke in Alameda County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby recognize Children’s Hospital Oakland for serving as a healthy behavior role model by implementing a smoke-free campus.

NATE MILEY, President
Supervisor, Fourth District

May 1, 2012

KEITH CARSON, Vice-President
Supervisor, Fifth District

SCOTT HAGGERTY
Supervisor, First District

WILMA CHAN
Supervisor, Third District