

Resolution No.: 17-1060
Introduced: April 22, 2014
Adopted: April 29, 2014

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council Vice President Leventhal and
Councilmembers Floreen, Riemer, Navarro, Andrews

SUBJECT: Resolution to urge Merchants with Pharmacies to Stop Selling Cigarettes in
Montgomery County Retail Outlets

Background

1. Smoking is the single largest cause of preventable disease and death in the United States.
2. The estimated economic cost attributable to smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke continues to increase and now approaches \$300 billion annually, with direct medical costs of at least \$130 billion and productivity losses of more than \$150 billion a year.
3. Changes in the design and composition of cigarettes since the 1950s have increased the risk of adenocarcinoma of the lung, the most common type of lung cancer. Even though today's smokers smoke fewer cigarettes than those 50 years ago, they are at higher risk of developing lung cancer.
4. In February CVS Pharmacy announced that it will no longer sell cigarettes or any other tobacco product at any of its stores beginning October 1, 2014. As a result of this action CVS Pharmacy estimates it will lose \$2 billion in tobacco sales.
5. More than two dozen Attorneys General from around the country including Washington DC, New York and Nevada sent a letter urging major retailers to end the contradiction of selling tobacco products at stores that house pharmacies.
6. The County Executive's FY-15 Budget proposal calls for Montgomery County to spend more than \$1 million on tobacco use prevention and cessation programs.
7. Although lung cancer mortality rates have decreased among African American and Non-Hispanic White county residents between 2007 and 2012, the rate has increased in the Asian/Pacific Islander community and has more than doubled in the Hispanic community.

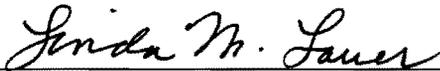
8. Causes of death which have been directly linked to smoking by the U.S. Surgeon General – coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, and diabetes – have steadily risen in Montgomery County’s Hispanic population since 2007.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council urges merchants with pharmacies to stop selling cigarettes in Montgomery County retail outlets.

This is a corrected copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council