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Resolution Relating to

RESOLUTION
Sponsor(s): Councilors Shannon,
Bushor, Berezniak, Mulvaney-Stanak, Paul, Adrian

Introduced: 04/11/11
Referred to: _____
Action: _____
Date: _____
Signed by Mayor: _____

A SMOKE-FREE HEALTHY DOWNTOWN

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Eleven.....
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, Burlington has been a leader in the state and the nation in protecting the health of its residents and visitors by eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke in indoor public places and work places, including bars and restaurants; and

WHEREAS, the most recent Surgeon General's report from 2010 states, "There is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. Any exposure to tobacco smoke – even an occasional cigarette or exposure to secondhand smoke – is harmful;" and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the California Air Resources Board released a monitoring report evaluating the health impact on California residents of outdoor exposure to secondhand smoke and identified secondhand smoke as a toxic air contaminant, an outdoor air pollutant that may cause or contribute to an increase in deaths or in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health; and

WHEREAS, Burlington has been recognized as one of the “Top One Hundred Places to Live in America,” one of the “Top Ten Cities for the next Decade,” one of the “Top American Walking Cities,” and one of the “Top Ten Greenest Cities;” and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention named Burlington as the “Healthiest City in the United States;” and

WHEREAS, residents and visitors throng to the Church Street Marketplace, Burlington’s living room, to recreate, shop, dine and work; and

36 **Resolution Relating to** A SMOKE-FREE HEALTHY DOWNTOWN

37
38 WHEREAS, residents and visitors, young and old, are exposed to toxic secondhand
39 smoke as they frequent the Marketplace, Waterfront, downtown Burlington and local
40 businesses; and

41 WHEREAS, Great Neck, New York, New York City's Times Square, Ithaca, Seoul,
42 South Korea, Santa Cruz, California, and Santa Clara, California have enacted ordinances to
43 restrict smoking in outdoor public places in order to protect their residents and visitors; and

44 WHEREAS, 86% of Chittenden County residents, 82% of Vermonters, and 82% of
45 Canadians don't smoke, the vast majority of downtown tourists and residents would enjoy the
46 physical and experiential benefits of a smoke-free environment; and

47 WHEREAS, creating large smoke free expanses in the outdoors may necessitate
48 designating areas for smoking in order to assure the larger area remains smoke-free;

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ordinance Committee is requested to
50 seek input from the Marketplace Commission, Burlington Business Association and the public
51 on how to create a smoke free downtown that will best serve the interests of businesses,
52 customers, and citizens; and

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests the Ordinance Committee
54 draft an ordinance that will create a smoke free downtown.

55