

Member Rogan moved and Member Blonigan seconded a motion that the following resolution be read and adopted this 7th day of November, 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 7604

A RESOLUTION INDICATING SUPPORT FOR RAISING
THE LEGAL AGE FOR TOBACCO SALES FROM 18 TO 21

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota regrettably has not undertaken any action to raise the legal age for tobacco sales from 18 to 21 which would help keep tobacco out of high schools; and

WHEREAS, tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable disease and premature death in Minnesota and is one of the largest drivers of health care costs; and

WHEREAS, 95% of current adult smokers began using tobacco before age 21, and the ages of 18 to 21 are a critical period when many experimental smokers transition to regular, daily use; and

WHEREAS, smoking-caused health costs in Minnesota total more than \$3 billion per year and raising the age of legal sales of tobacco products, e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine products to age 21 will decrease overall usage rates, which in turn will lead to reduced future tobacco-related health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine estimates there would be a 25% reduction in smoking initiation among 15-to-17 year olds if the legal sales age for tobacco were raised to 21 years of age, and local analysis estimates it would prevent 30,000 Minnesota youth from starting to smoke; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Robbinsdale hereby acknowledges that underage and youth tobacco use poses significant risks to public health; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also acknowledges that any change in the permitted sales age for tobacco products will have business impacts, such as the introduction of discrepancies between neighboring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, every current high school student who resides within Robbinsdale must travel to or through neighboring cities, none of which are currently considering raising the legal age for tobacco sales, which provides those individuals ample opportunity to purchase tobacco products outside of Robbinsdale at the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, the City of Robbinsdale has asked Independent School District #281 for their endorsement for its cities to take action to reduce youth access to tobacco by raising the legal age for tobacco sales from 18 to 21;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE, MINNESOTA: that the City of Robbinsdale is in favor of raising the legal age for tobacco sales from 18 to 21 years old but is concerned about creating significantly different rules between neighboring jurisdictions which could create confusion and significant negative business impacts only on businesses within the City. The City Council therefore stands ready and willing to take action on the proposal to raise the minimum age for tobacco sales at such time as other neighboring cities in the Robbinsdale School District, and the metropolitan region, begin to take such steps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager will report back to the City Council on the efforts of other cities in Minnesota raising the legal age for tobacco purchase to 21 in November, 2018.


The question was on the adoption of the resolution and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Selman, Backen, Blonigan, Rogan, Mayor Murphy

and the following voted against the same: None

WHEREUPON SAID RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017.


Regan L. Murphy, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tom Marshall, City Clerk