November 9, 2004

To: Potential Supporters of a Smoke Free Workplace Ordinance in the City of Milwaukee
From: Dona Wininsky, Public Policy Director, American Lung Association of WI

Please let this serve as a letter of introduction to the Smoke Free Milwaukee campaign, a city-wide effort to protect all Milwaukee workers from the harmful health effects of involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS), also known as environmental smoke (ETS).

The Smoke Free Milwaukee campaign is an initiative of the Wisconsin Ethnic Network Collaborative (WENC). WENC addresses tobacco control issues in communities of color, with an emphasis on clean indoor air. In this particular effort, WENC is working with additional partners including the Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Milwaukee Health Department, Milwaukee Public Schools, Smoke Free Wisconsin, State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, and many other community organizations.

These partners have all come together in the belief that SHS has dangerous health consequences for non-smokers, from triggering asthma attacks to developing lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. We support the notion that everyone has the right to breathe clean air, regardless of where they work.

The goal of the Smoke Free Milwaukee campaign is to enact a city-wide ordinance that will prohibit smoking in all workplaces. This is not a campaign against smokers, simply an effort to remove smoking from the work environment so that all employees can breathe clean air.

We hope your organization will formally endorse and support this campaign by signing the Resolution enclosed. Hundreds of communities around the nation (including 18 in Wisconsin), 13 U.S. states, and seven countries have adopted similar policies. Countless others are in the works. The time for smoke free workplaces has arrived.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 262-703-4849. Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to adding your name to our growing list of supporters.
Smoke Free Milwaukee Project
A Wisconsin Ethnic Network Collaborative Initiative
Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin · UMOS · Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Associations

Smoke Free Resolution

WHEREAS, Secondhand tobacco smoke has been classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a known cause of lung cancer in humans (Group A carcinogen); and

WHEREAS, In Wisconsin, approximately 1,200 people die annually from diseases caused by secondhand tobacco smoke;

WHEREAS, Secondhand tobacco smoke increases the risk of cancer and poses other significant health threats including asthma, emphysema, heart attack and stroke; and

WHEREAS, Workers exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke on the job are 34% more likely to get lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-nine percent of all Wisconsin worksites do not offer smoke free environments;

WHEREAS, Two out of every five children are exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke, making them more likely to have asthma and ear infections; and

WHEREAS, It is everyone’s right to breathe clean indoor air.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the undersigned publicly endorses the creation of a 100% smoke free workplace policy in City of Milwaukee.

Organization Name: ________________________________

Contact Person: ________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________

City________________ State________ Zip_________

Phone Number:________________ Fax #:____________

Email Address: ________________________________

Signature: ________________________________ Title: ________________________________

For more information please contact:
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