



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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2014 JUN 30 AM 9:15

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Cris Medina, Councilman, District 7

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Robbie Greenblum, City Attorney; John Peterek, Special Project Manager

SUBJECT: Banning the sale and possession of Electronic Cigarettes and implements to persons under the age of 18

DATE: June 26, 2014

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the **Governance Committee**:

Ban the sale and possession of electronic cigarettes, nicotine cartridges, nicotine infused liquids, and their implements to any persons under the age of 18. Provide penalties comparable to penalties for the sale of traditional tobacco products to minors.

Brief Background

As cities around the country have instituted more restrictions on smoking, recently so-called "electronic cigarettes" have become more prevalent and are occupying more and more retail space.

Electronic cigarettes are devices that deliver liquid nicotine in the form of a vapor. While the companies do not make specific claims about the health or safety of their product, they do tout the benefits of electronic cigarettes as an alternative tobacco in the form of traditional smoking.

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has expressed some concern that manufacturers do not fully disclose all the chemical ingredients in the product, and that the amount of nicotine listed on a cartridge label may not match the actual amount delivered by the device.

Although electronic cigarettes are not specifically marketed to minors, cartridges are available in a variety of flavors including chocolate, bubble gum, cola, and strawberry which could make the product more palatable to minors.

According to the FDA's website:

E-cigarettes have not been fully studied so consumers currently don't know (1) the potential risks of e-cigarettes when used as intended; (2) how much nicotine or other potentially harmful chemicals are being inhaled during use; and (3) if there are any benefits associated with using these products.

Additionally, it is not known if e-cigarettes may lead young people to try other tobacco products, including conventional cigarettes, which are known to cause disease and lead to premature death.

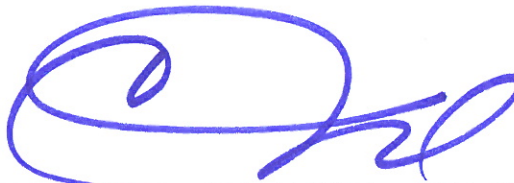
A study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) found some alarming statistics. The use of e-cigarettes by high school students rose from 4.7 percent in 2011 to 10 percent in 2012, and E-cigarette use also doubled among middle school students, the investigators found. More than 1.78 million middle and high school students had tried e-cigarettes by 2012, the study authors noted.

The CDC also issued an alarming statement saying the number of calls to poison control centers regarding e-cigarette nicotine-infused liquids rose sharply every month between September 2010 and February 2014, from just one call per month, to as many as 215. Over 50% of those calls received involved accidental poisoning of kids under the age of 5.

Additionally, a Surgeon General's report issued in January of this year stated, "...evidence now suggests that nicotine exposure during adolescence may have lasting adverse consequences for brain development."

The City of San Antonio has made public health, safety, and wellness a priority, yet there are no restrictions on the selling of electronic cigarettes to minors. It is in the best interest of protecting our minor children to restrict the sale of electronic cigarettes and nicotine cartridges to persons 18 years of age and up.

Submitted for Council consideration  
by:



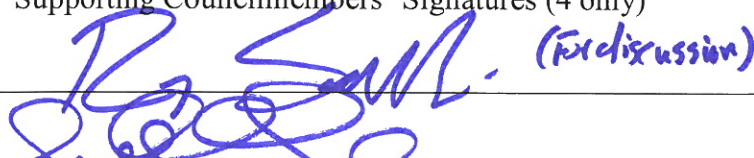
Councilman Cris Medina, District 7

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Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

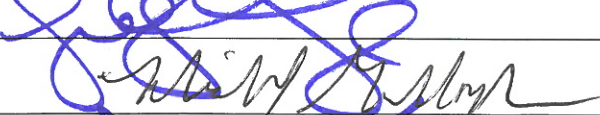
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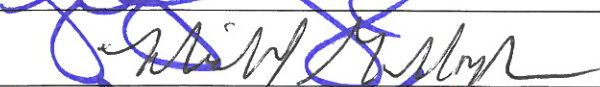
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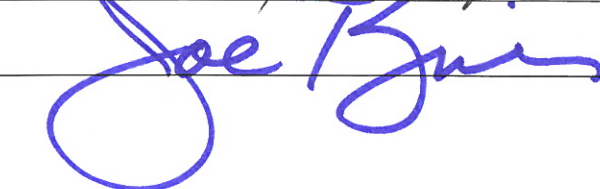
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