



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#19-0709

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney

DATE: August 20, 2019

TITLE: Ordinance Amending Chapter 16, Creating Article VIII, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Prohibit the Sale or Distribution of Tobacco Products to Persons Under 21 Years of Age

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt the attached Ordinance amending Chapter 16, by creating Article VIII, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which prohibits the sale or distribution of tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale (the "City") recognizes that the use of tobacco products has devastating health and economic consequences. Commercial tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of premature death in America. It causes nearly half a million deaths annually and has been responsible for 20.8 million premature deaths in the United States since the first Surgeon General's report on smoking in 1964. Youth access to tobacco products compounds this problem because young people exposed to nicotine are particularly likely to become lifelong users.

Raising the minimum legal sale age for tobacco from age 18 to 21 years of age will have a substantial positive impact on public health and will save lives. Over 475 municipalities, as well as 18 states, have enacted legislation to prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under 21 years of age.

The proposed Ordinance amends Chapter 16 of the City Code of Ordinances, to create definitions for tobacco and alternative nicotine products and to prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age.

Enforcement of this article will commence six (6) months after the adoption of the Ordinance in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale; or Chapter 1, Section 1-6 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Resource Impact

The adoption of this Ordinance has no direct fiscal impact on the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

Prepared by: Tania Marie Amar, Assistant City Attorney

Charter Officer: Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney