

RICHARD MERRITT
#2a

> MY NAME IS RM - CHAIR, APHAC -

> JOINED BY: ARLENE HEWITT, MEREDITH TAYLOR, ^{ANDREW} LAVANWAY, MARY ANNE WEBER

> ADVISORY COMM. ESTABLISHED BY CC IN 1981

(1) SERVES AS THE EVALUATING & ADVISING COMM. TO CC
REGARDING ANY AND ALL HEALTH MATTERS

(2) PROVIDES A PRIORITY PERSPECTIVE ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH
NEEDS AND PROGRAMS OF THE CITY

> AS COMMISSIONERS, WE FEEL WE HAVE BEEN TRUE TO
THESE PURPOSES BY OUR RECOMMENDATION TO CC
TO AUTHORIZE PLACEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNS
ENCOURAGING SMOKERS TO REFRAIN FROM SMOKING IN
OUR PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND IN OUR BUS SHELTERS.

> THIS RECOMMENDATION IS IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE
CITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN WHICH CALLS FOR "A PROACTIVE
HEALTH PROGRAM TO REDUCE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS BY
REDUCING EXPOSURE TO SECOND HAND SMOKE."

> THE COMMISSION'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN MAKING THIS
RECOMMENDATION IS TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF EXPOSURE
TO SECOND HAND SMOKE OF OUR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND
NON-SMOKING ADULT POPULATION.

> WE KNOW THAT THERE IS A LOT OF MYTHOLOGY AND
MISINFORMATION OUT THERE ABOUT SHS, AND WE BELIEVE
THESE SIGNS WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION IN
EDUCATING SMOKERS AND NON-SMOKERS ALIKE ABOUT
THE DANGERS OF SHS.

7 IN ISSUING A GROUNDBREAKING REPORT ON SHS IN 2006, THEN SURGEON GENERAL OF THE US RICHARD CARMONA STATED

" THE DEBATE IS OVER. THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR:

SECOND HAND SMOKE IS NOT A MERE ANNOYANCE, BUT A SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARD THAT CAUSES PREMATURE DEATH AND DISEASE IN CHILDREN AND NON-SMOKING ADULTS."

7 THE SURGEON GENERAL FOUND THAT SHS IS A PROVEN CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER, HEART DISEASE, SERIOUS RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES SUCH AS BRONCHITIS & ASTHMA, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT AND SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME.

7 THE CURRENT SURGEON GENERAL RECENTLY DECLARED:

" THERE IS NO RISK FREE LEVEL OF EXPOSURE TO SHS. EVEN SMALL AMOUNTS OF SHS EXPOSURE CAN BE HARMFUL TO PEOPLE'S HEALTH."

7 WE LIVE IN A COMMUNITY, NOT IN ISOLATION. AND IF LIVING IN A COMMUNITY MEANS ANYTHING AT ALL, SURELY IT MUST MEAN THAT WE CARE FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL OUR CITIZENS -- THAT IS OUR PUBLIC HEALTH.

7 YOU EXPRESSED THIS IN YOUR STRATEGIC PLAN:

" ALEXANDRIA RESPECTS, PROTECTS AND ENHANCES THE HEALTH OF ITS CITIZENS;" AND, "ALEXANDRIA IS A COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS AND ENHANCES THE WELL-BEING OF ITS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES."

7 YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS AROUND THE CITY ENCOURAGING OUR SMOKING RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO REFRAIN FROM SMOKING