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Johnson & Johnson  
JED YORK  
San Francisco 49ers

Established in 1978 by  
David Packard

September 20, 2017

Rules and Open Government Committee  
San Jose City Hall  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

**RE: 9/20 Agenda Item G – Public Health Policy Initiatives**

Dear Honorable Mayor and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, I am writing to express our support for an enhanced Tobacco Retail License (TRL) Ordinance and smoke-free multi unit housing policies. We ask to have these two policies considered and moved forward as part of the priority setting session on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents nearly 375 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers in issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax, and the environment. Collectively, Leadership Group members provide nearly one out of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

The Leadership Group is deeply committed towards advocating for public health issues that promote health equity and improved health outcomes. With cigarette smoking being the leading cause of preventable disease and early deaths in the United States, we believe that the City of San Jose's movement on TRLs and smoke-free multi unit housing policies will have a tremendous impact on public health. With more than a quarter of the city's residents residing in multi-unit settings and a strengthened ordinance to protect the youth, both proposed policies warrant consideration.

In closing, the Leadership Group commends the City of San Jose's leadership for their past work and dedication towards ensuring the health of all residents. We look forward to working together to ensure that these policies are adopted. Thank you for the consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Carl Guardino  
President & CEO  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group



Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the San Jose Rules and Open Government Committee,

On behalf of the Tobacco Free Coalition of Santa Clara County, we are writing to endorse efforts to restrict smoking in multi-unit housing; and amend the existing Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance to prohibit new tobacco retailers from operating within 1,000 feet of a school and 500 feet of existing tobacco retailers and establishing restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, as well as mint, candy, and fruit flavored electronic smoking devices or vapor products in the City of San Jose.

The Tobacco Free Coalition of Santa Clara was formed in 1990 to change the community attitudes on tobacco use and to be an advocate for legislative change at the local and state levels on tobacco use issues. The coalition is comprised of a diverse group of community leaders, health care professionals, educators, and advocates from more than 24 Santa Clara County based organizations and provides advisory direction to the efforts of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department's Tobacco-Free Communities program on tobacco control issues.

Despite steep declines in the use of cigarettes among Santa Clara County youth, there has been a rapid increase in the use of other tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices. Eighty percent (80%) of current teen smokers started with a flavored tobacco product. The availability and use of flavored tobacco and nicotine products has skyrocketed in recent years. In addition to flavored tobacco products, high density of tobacco establishments also has an impact on youth tobacco use. It increases access to tobacco products and tobacco advertising, and renormalizes smoking behavior. In fact, kids are 3 times as sensitive to tobacco ads than adults and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of underage experimentation with smoking is due to tobacco advertising and promotions.

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke travels through multi-unit housing through doors, windows, hallways, ventilation ducts, and gaps in outlets and fixtures and can enter common areas and inside units occupied by non-smokers.

As Californians, we are expressing our concerns about the Tobacco Industry's deliberate marketing tactics. We need to act now to prevent the onset of serious chronic illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and asthma. We urge the San Jose City Council to restrict smoking in multi-unit housing; and expand their Tobacco Retail License to include restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products and prohibit new tobacco retailers from operating within 1,000 feet of schools and 500 feet of existing tobacco retailers.

Again, we are deeply appreciative of your ongoing leadership towards tobacco prevention efforts and dedication to helping communities thrive in best health.

Sincerely,

Roger Kennedy, MD  
Tobacco-Free Coalition Co-Chair  
Retired MD

Don Tran, MPH  
Tobacco-Free Coalition Co-Chair  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

*Create healthy environments where you can live, work, play, and be...tobacco free!*

## **Endorsements (Partial List)**

More than 175 endorsement of support for Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing and more than 500 endorsements of support for Tobacco Retail Licensing, including restrictions on flavored tobacco, were collected from individuals across Santa Clara County. Below is a sample of some of the Community Organizations and Community Leaders that have signed letters of support that endorse the goal of preventing youth access and exposure to tobacco products through a tobacco retail license including restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavorings in electronic smoking devices, across the county:

### **Organizations:**

- *Breathe California*
- *Joyner/Payne Youth Service Agency*
- *Roots Community Health Center*
- *Project Ohana in the Bay*
- *Korean American Community Services*
- *Viet Voters*
- *Silicon Valley Leadership Group*

### **Individuals:**

- *Reverend Jeff Moore, III, President, Silicon Valley (SV) NAACP*
- *Anna Griffin, Member, Juneteenth Planning Committee*
- *Jacqueline Rabouin, Member, Disparities Task Force, Regional Developmental Disabilities Board*
- *Robin Braxton, Board Member, S. J. African American Community Services Agency (AACSA)*
- *Elizabeth Turner-Nichols, Vice Chair, and Founding President, SV Chapter of Blacks In Government (BIG)*
- *Carolyn G. Ellzey, Member, Garden City Women's Club*
- *Melody Hames, Akoma Arts (Multicultural Arts organization)*
- *Gene Brown, Member, Golden State Gay Rodeo Association Bay Area Chapter*
- *Emily Carhart, Staff, LGBTQ Youth Space*
- *Rodrigo Garcia-Reyes, Colectivo ALD Teatro Vision (Latino Arts group)*
- *Rachel Munoz, Staff, Gilroy City Police Department staff*
- *Robert Smart, Advocate, HIV/AIDS civil rights health care*
- *L. Marchelle Watkins, Staff, Greenacre Homes*
- *Wayne Morgan, Staff, The Hub (a LGBTQ support group)*
- *Members of the SV Black Chamber of Commerce*
  - *Aimbrell Shanks, Business Development Director*
  - *Karl Welch, Member*
- *Members of the SV Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women*
  - *Viera Whye, Chair*
  - *Angela Dibono, Membership Chair*
  - *Coy Garrett, Member*
- *Various members of the Ethiopian Community*
  - *Misrak Dubale*
  - *Amha Habteyes*
  - *Nebi Alemu, CLEA*
  - *Addis Zewdon*
  - *Melaku Aynalem*
  - *Mohammed Ali*
- *31 high school students from the following schools:*
  - *Andrew Hill High School*
  - *Del Mar High School*
  - *Downtown College Prep*
  - *Gilroy High School*
  - *Gunderson High School*
  - *Homestead High School*
  - *James Lick High School*
  - *Lincoln High School*
  - *Monte Vista High School*
  - *Mount Pleasant High School*
  - *Mountain View High School*
  - *Overfelt High School*
  - *Piedmont Hill High School*
  - *Pioneer High School*
  - *San Jose High School*
  - *Silver Creek High School*
  - *Summit Rainier Charter High School*
  - *Wilcox High School*
  - *Yerba Buena High School*
- *10 college students from the following colleges and universities:*
  - *Evergreen Community College*
  - *San Jose City College*
  - *San Jose State University*

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose  
and Members of the City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of our members in San Jose, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights is writing to encourage the city to prioritize taking action on smokefree multi-unit housing and prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products. San Jose has a long history of leadership in tobacco prevention to reduce the deadly impact of tobacco use and exposure, and we urge you to take these next life-saving steps.

### **Multi-Unit Housing**

Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights encourages San Jose to expand the city's smokefree air protections to **prohibit smoking in all multi-unit housing properties** to help ensure everyone's right to a smokefree living environment and protect the health and safety of multi-unit residents.

San Jose has the opportunity to be a public health leader by protecting residents from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke by prohibiting smoking in all multi-unit residences. Smokefree multi-unit housing is a powerful way to have a broad, positive impact on public health by reducing secondhand exposure in a location where many people spend much of their time—especially children, the elderly, and the disabled—and can suffer from persistent levels of exposure.

Action is needed on this important issue because secondhand smoke does not stay in the unit of a person who smokes. **Secondhand smoke can drift through multi-unit buildings** and enter common areas and units occupied by non-smokers, where it becomes a nuisance and health risk to other residents. Research shows that up to 65% of the air in an apartment unit can come from other units in the building, and that secondhand smoke drifts under doors, through windows, hallways, and ventilation ducts, and through gaps around outlets, pipes, fixtures, and walls.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that nearly 5 million California multi-unit housing residents who keep a smokefree home are still exposed to a neighbor's toxic secondhand smoke. The U.S. Surgeon General confirmed that there is **no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke**, and that secondhand smoke exposure can have both short and long term health risks, especially for people with existing health conditions like asthma and other respiratory conditions, heart disease, and cancer.

Smokefree multi-unit residences creates a healthier, safer, and cleaner living environment for all residents, including smokers and their families. It's important to note that a smokefree building does not mean that people who smoke have to quit and it does not require people who smoke to move out. People who smoke simply need to go outdoors to appropriate areas to smoke.

San Jose would be in good company by adopting such a law; 40 California cities and counties have enacted laws that require all multi-unit housing properties to be 100% smokefree, including Burlingame, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, and San Mateo County.

## Flavored Tobacco Products

Communities around the Bay Area are expanding tobacco retail license requirements to **prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes**, in order to limit the negative public health consequences of tobacco use and to reduce the impact of targeted tobacco industry marketing, especially to youth and low-income communities of color.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs* that have a proven track record in helping to reduce tobacco-related disease and death in our communities. The CDC's three best practices are to 1) eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke, 2) promote tobacco use cessation, and 3) prevent tobacco use initiation among youth and young adults, which includes increasing the unit price of tobacco products and limiting minors' access to tobacco products via stronger local laws directed at retailers.

Communities have the right and responsibility to hold tobacco and e-cigarette retailers accountable for being part of the tobacco epidemic by selling these addictive and deadly products in flavors that are very appealing to youth and young adults. It is important to take strong action because the tobacco and e-cigarette industries continue the deceptive and targeted marketing of their products to youth and young adults, African-Americans, the LGBTQ community, and other vulnerable populations.

The evidence is clear that **menthol tobacco products are more heavily marketed to African-Americans**, and more than 80% of African-American smokers are menthol smokers (compared to 30% of Latinos and 20% of Caucasians). While the tobacco industry's history of targeting the African-American community is often cloaked by its generous community contributions, scholarship initiatives, and other forms of "corporate responsibility," it is no secret that the health of African-Americans is most impacted by cancer, heart disease, and stroke—all of which are associated with smoking and secondhand smoke exposure.

Tobacco companies have everything to gain from addicting young people to its products, given research showing that the earlier a person starts using tobacco, the higher the risk of addiction, and the harder it becomes to quit. The tobacco industry's long and well-documented history of profiling and targeting the African-American community for economic profits comes at the expense of individuals' lives. When it comes to industry tactics, some things never change.

Given these facts, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights urges the City of San Jose to prioritize taking action on smokefree multi-unit housing and prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Thank you for your leadership and desire to make San Jose the best place to live, work, and visit. Please feel free to contact me at 510-841-3045 if you have any questions, comments, or feedback.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Cynthia Hallett.

Cynthia Hallett, MPH  
President and CEO

*Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights is a national, member-based, not-for-profit organization based in Berkeley, CA that is dedicated to helping nonsmokers breathe smokefree air since 1976.*

Dear Council Member Peralez,

9/21/2017

We are writing to request that you support Donald Rocha's upcoming priority recommendation to ban gas leaf blowers in San Jose.

The two-cycle motors used in the vast majority of gas blowers lack valves and burn a gas-oil mix that is highly air polluting. Because of air pollution two-cycle powered road vehicles have been banned for decades.

The California Air Resources Board documents that gas leaf blowers emit 500 times the amount of hydrocarbons and 26 times the amount of carbon monoxide compared to newer four-cycle auto engines. CARB also found that gas blower exhaust emits up to 49 times the particulate matter of a light duty vehicle. In addition to pollution from toxic exhaust fumes, gas blowers blow mold, pollen, animal feces, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and street residues into the air. Particulate matter remains suspended in the air for hours and is so small that it is easily assimilated into the lungs.

The CARB estimates that by 2020, gas lawn tools will be producing more air pollution than cars.

<https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/02/13/more-pollution-than-cars-gas-powered-gardening-equipment-poses-the-next-air-quality-threat/>

<https://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/leafblow/leafblow.htm>

Gas blowers are also constantly throttled up and down the engine's rpm range creating an extremely loud grating noise that is stressful and a health hazard to people and animals.

<http://www.greenwichcalm.org/apps/blog/entries/show/6583443-health-hazards-of-leaf-blowers>

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District recommends things the public can do to make clean air choices every day. One of those is to "avoid using gas powered ...leaf blowers."

<http://sparetheair.org/make-a-difference/get-the-facts#13> ,

[http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Portals/0/Sunnyvale/bc\\_agendas/2013/2014%20Proposed%20Study%20Issues.pdf](http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Portals/0/Sunnyvale/bc_agendas/2013/2014%20Proposed%20Study%20Issues.pdf)

Gas blower two-cycle motors have slipped through the regulatory cracks. They've never had to be cleared though any air pollution boards. Over twenty other California cities have banned or restricted gas leaf blowers including Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, Los Gatos being one of the most recent. <http://www.losgatosca.gov/2059/Leaf-Blower-Ordinance>

We applaud the move toward the use of alternatives such as battery powered electric blowers and of course rakes and brooms. As a compromise we suggest allowing the use of electric blowers. Professional grade electric blowers are readily available that are quieter and don't pollute locally. <https://www.stihlusa.com/products/blowers-and-shredder-vacs/battery-blowers/bga100/>

Our petition: "Ban Gas Leaf Blowers San Jose" at MoveOn.org has currently garnered 851 signers with comments by San Jose citizens on how gas blowers degrade quality of life.

<http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/ban-gas-leafblowers-in>

We welcome your support on this issue.

Sincerely,

Martin Stuczynski  
San Jose, CA 95124

**From:** Inderjit Sidhu []

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:15 PM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov)>; Inderjit >

**Subject:** Item 3G on October 17 City Council agenda

Hello Sam

Hello Sam

I understand that the Council will be voting on October 17 to set policy priorities.

I urge you to vote no on amending the city's existing Tobacco Retail License ordinance.

In addition to the city's TRL, I have a state Tobacco license, the state recently raised the age to purchase tobacco to 21 and Prop 56 added a \$2 tax to every pack of cigarettes and raised the tax on chewing tobacco and other tobacco by 67%

There are more than adequate federal, state and local regulations and taxes in place to keep tobacco out of hands of minors.

I am a responsible business owner and I do not sell tobacco to anyone under age 21.

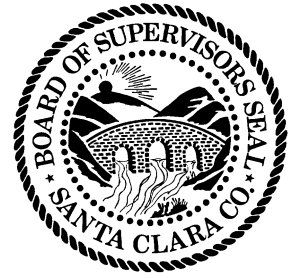
Additional regulations will only drive my adult customers to stores outside San Jose or into the internet where no one verifies the age of a customer.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Inderjit Sidhu  
Monterey Rd.  
SanJose CA



**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, EAST WING  
70 WEST HEDDING STREET, 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95110  
(408) 299-5040  
FAX (408) 299-2038 TDD 993-8272  
[WWW.SUPERVISORYEAGER.ORG](http://WWW.SUPERVISORYEAGER.ORG)



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**KEN YEAGER**  
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

October 13, 2017

San Jose Mayor and City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

**RE: Agenda Item 3.6 – Support for Tobacco Control Policies**

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Council:

I write to express my strong support for enhancing San Jose's Tobacco Retail License (TRL) Ordinance and for developing a smoke-free multi-unit housing policy in San Jose. I urge the City Council to prioritize these important public health initiatives. I also offer the County's expertise in this area. Given all the work County staff has already done on these issues, should San Jose choose to explore adoption of these policies, we can offer a great deal of assistance.

In my time as a County Supervisor, I've worked hard to keep tobacco out of the hands of youth because adolescents are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of nicotine and nicotine addiction. The vast majority of smokers pick up the habit when they are teens and young adults. The tobacco industry is very aware of this. As a result, they are aggressive in their efforts to recruit new, young smokers.

Although cigarette smoking among youth is at an all-time low of 3% in Santa Clara County, use of other tobacco products, such as e-cigarettes and cigarillos, have unfortunately made smoking behaviors popular again among many youth. All told, 10.9% of County youth report using tobacco. Many tobacco products come in a variety of enticing flavors designed to appeal to young people, such as chocolate or strawberry and even flavors like Skittles, Gummy Bear or Sour Dream. A 2013 survey found that 80% of tobacco retailers in Santa Clara County sell flavored tobacco products. That number is higher among retailers near schools, with 87% selling flavored tobacco.

To combat these industry tactics, we need strong policies. In recent years, the County Board of Supervisors has strengthened our Tobacco Retail Permit Ordinance to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, menthol cigarettes, and flavored e-cigarettes in all but adult-only stores. We also restrict new tobacco retailers from operating within 1,000 feet of a school. These policies are effective, but so far their full impact in our County is limited to the unincorporated areas, Los



Gatos, and Palo Alto (both cities recently chose to mirror the County's ordinance). San Jose taking this step would dramatically increase our ability to limit youth access to tobacco.

Secondhand smoke also continues to be a serious health hazard. While great progress has been made in San Jose to restrict smoking in parks, on trails, and in outdoor eating areas, multi-unit housing (apartments, condos, and townhomes) is now the number one source of secondhand smoke exposure. In Santa Clara County, more than 1 in 4 adults living in multi-unit housing report exposure to secondhand smoke. Exposure is even higher for Latino residents (40%) and low-income households (36%). Santa Clara County and the cities of Sunnyvale, Los Gatos, and Palo Alto have all taken action to prohibit smoking in these units. San Jose has already restricted smoking in *outdoor common areas* of multi-unit housing. If the City were to prevent smoking *within* these units as well, the benefits to public health would substantially increase.

Despite all the gains we've made, smoking remains the single largest preventable cause of death in the United States. The best way to prevent a lifetime of smoking—and the chronic conditions it can bring—is to never start in the first place. Please help our young San Jose residents avoid ever getting on this path, and please do all you can to prevent exposure to secondhand smoke.

There is strong local support for taking action against tobacco. Nearly 73% of San Jose voters supported Prop 56, the tobacco tax initiative on the ballot this past fall. I commend the Mayor and City Council for your past leadership on tobacco control and encourage you to prioritize taking these meaningful additional steps.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Ken Yeager.

Ken Yeager  
Supervisor, Fourth District

**From:** Martin Delson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2017 9:06 AM  
**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; City Clerk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Rosemarie Delson  
**Subject:** Oct. 17 Council Meeting -- Item 3.6 -- Priority Setting Session / gas powered blowers

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

My wife and I are writing in support of including a study of the **Ban on Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers** as an item to be moved to the Council Priority List and included in the ranking process for the coming year. We believe that the study will lead to a staff recommendation to restrict the use of these devices, which is something that we would greatly favor.

1. Most gas-powered leaf blowers use two-stroke engines, where oil is mixed with the gasoline. About 30% of the fuel fails to undergo complete combustion, resulting in the emission of carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, and various hydrocarbons. Carbon monoxide is toxic, and the nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons cause smog. Please refer to the following report: <https://www.edmunds.com/about/press/leaf-blowers-emissions-dirtier-than-high-performance-pick-up-trucks-says-edmunds-insidelinecom.html>, which includes the following statement: "The tests found that a Ryobi 4-stroke leaf blower kicked out almost seven times more oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and 13.5 times more carbon monoxide (CO) than the Raptor, which InsideLine.com once dubbed "the ultimate Michigan mudslinger." An Echo 2-stroke leaf blower performed even worse, generating 23 times CO and nearly 300 *times* more non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC) than the Raptor.

2. They are exceedingly noisy. According to the report cited below, "The average blower measures 70-75 dB at 50 feet", and "a blower measuring 70-75 dB at 50 feet can reach 90-100 dB at the operator's ear. OSHA requires hearing protection for noise over 85, and according to the World Health Organization, 'there is an increasing predictable risk' of hearing damage from noise above 75 dBA." See <http://www.nonoise.org/quietnet/cqs/leafblow.htm>.

3. They fill the air with dust, debris, and animal droppings that they kick up from the soil and street. According to a study conducted in Orange County, "the particulate matter (PM) swept into the air by blowing leaves is composed of dust, fecal matter, pesticides, fungi, chemicals, fertilizers, spores, and

*street dirt which consists of lead and organic and elemental carbon."*  
See <http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/leafblow.pdf>.

Consequently, we urge you to use one or more of your votes to include item 5, **Ban on Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers**, among the items to be placed on the Priority List.

Sincerely,

Martin and Rosemarie Delson  
[REDACTED] Palm Haven Ave.  
San Jose CA 95125



# MOTHERS OUT FRONT

## MOBILIZING FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE

October 16, 2017

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Mothers Out Front and hundreds of concerned residents, we urge you to prioritize your colleague Donald Rocha's proposed study on banning gas-powered leaf blowers at the Oct. 17th Priority Setting Session.

As we've experienced this past week, the quality of the air dramatically affects our health and wellbeing. [Gas-powered leaf blowers](#) are terrible polluters. According to Michael Benjamin of the CA Air Resources Board, small off-road engines like gardening equipment will soon surpass vehicles as **the biggest single ozone polluter in the state!**

Over the past year, San Jose has made great strides in protecting our climate, from passing Community Choice Energy to developing an innovative Environmental Sustainability Plan. Let's build on that success by studying how we can phase out the use of hazardous leaf blowers and other gardening equipment in a way that is sustainable for our landscapers and gardeners.

The California Air Resources Board is providing seed money to incentivize the exchange of dirty gas-powered leaf blowers for clean electric ones. Let's study how San Jose can capitalize on this program to improve our air quality, protect public health, and enhance our quality of life.

Switching from gas-powered to electric-powered leaf blowers has **multiple benefits**, including:

- **improving the health** of gardeners and residents who are exposed to known carcinogens in leaf-blowers' exhaust,
- **reducing noise pollution** which interferes with sleep, quality of life, and concentration, and
- **significantly reducing ozone pollution**, to which single-stroke engines like leaf blowers are a major contributor.

So, for the health of our community--particularly our vulnerable children and gardeners--and the protection of our fragile climate, we at Mothers Out Front urge the City Council to make one of your priorities in the next six months a study of how to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers in an economically sustainable.

Thank you for standing up for a livable climate for current and future generations and for environmental justice for those who help make our city beautiful.

Sincerely,

Linda Hutchins-Knowles and Stacy Levy  
Team Coordinators, South Bay Mothers Out Front



October 16, 2017

RE: Agenda Item 3.6 – Support for Tobacco Control Policies

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the San Jose City Council,

On behalf of the Tobacco Free Coalition of Santa Clara County, we are writing to endorse efforts to restrict smoking in multi-unit housing; and amend the existing Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance to prohibit new tobacco retailers from operating within 1,000 feet of a school and 500 feet of existing tobacco retailers and establishing restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, as well as mint, candy, and fruit flavored electronic smoking devices or vapor products in the City of San Jose.

The Tobacco Free Coalition of Santa Clara was formed in 1990 to change the community attitudes on tobacco use and to be an advocate for legislative change at the local and state levels on tobacco use issues. The coalition is comprised of a diverse group of community leaders, health care professionals, educators, and advocates from more than 24 Santa Clara County based organizations and provides advisory direction to the efforts of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department's Tobacco-Free Communities program on tobacco control issues.

Despite steep declines in the use of cigarettes among Santa Clara County youth, there has been a rapid increase in the use of other tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices. Eighty percent (80%) of current teen smokers started with a flavored tobacco product. The availability and use of flavored tobacco and nicotine products has skyrocketed in recent years. In addition to flavored tobacco products, high density of tobacco establishments also has an impact on youth tobacco use. It increases access to tobacco products and tobacco advertising, and renormalizes smoking behavior. In fact, kids are 3 times as sensitive to tobacco ads than adults and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of underage experimentation with smoking is due to tobacco advertising and promotions.

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke travels through multi-unit housing through doors, windows, hallways, ventilation ducts, and gaps in outlets and fixtures and can enter common areas and inside units occupied by non-smokers.

As Californians, we are expressing our concerns about the Tobacco Industry's deliberate marketing tactics. We need to act now to prevent the onset of serious chronic illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and asthma. We urge the San Jose City Council to restrict smoking in multi-unit housing; and expand their Tobacco Retail License to include restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products and prohibit new tobacco retailers from operating within 1,000 feet of a school and 500 feet of existing tobacco retailers.

Again, a deeply appreciative that you to the ongoing leadership of the San Jose City Council towards tobacco prevention efforts and dedication to helping communities thrive in best health.

Sincerely,

Roger Kennedy, MD  
Tobacco-Free Coalition Co-Chair  
Retired MD

Don Tran, MPH  
Tobacco-Free Coalition Co-Chair  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

## **Endorsements (Partial List)**

More than 500 endorsements of support were collected from individuals across Santa Clara County. Below is a sample of some of the Community Organizations and Community Leaders that have signed letters of support that endorse the goal of preventing youth access and exposure to tobacco products through a tobacco retail license including restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavorings in electronic smoking devices, across the county:

### **Organizations:**

- *Breathe California*
- *Joyner/Payne Youth Service Agency*
- *Roots Community Health Center, South Bay*
- *Project Ohana in the Bay*
- *Silicon Valley Leadership Group*
- *Korean American Community Services*
- *Viet Voters*
- *Keeping Youth Safe Coalition*
- *American Heart Association*
- *Assembly Member Ash Kalra, District 27*

### **Individuals:**

- *Reverend Jeff Moore, III, President, Silicon Valley (SV) NAACP*
- *Anna Griffin, Member, Juneteenth Planning Committee*
- *Jacqueline Rabouin, Member, Disparities Task Force, Regional Developmental Disabilities Board*
- *Robin Braxton, Board Member, S. J. African American Community Services Agency (AACSA)*
- *Elizabeth Turner-Nichols, Vice Chair, and Founding President, SV Chapter of Blacks In Government (BIG)*
- *Carolyn G. Ellzey, Member, Garden City Women's Club*
- *Melody Hames, Akoma Arts (Multicultural Arts organization)*
- *Gene Brown, Member, Golden State Gay Rodeo Association Bay Area Chapter*
- *Emily Carhart, Staff, LGBTQ Youth Space*
- *Rodrigo Garcia-Reyes, Colectivo ALD Teatro Vision (Latino Arts group)*
- *Robert Smart, Advocate, HIV/AIDS civil rights health care*
- *L. Marchelle Watkins, Staff, Greenacre Homes*
- *Wayne Morgan, Staff, The Hub (a LGBTQ support group)*
- *Members of the SV Black Chamber of Commerce*
  - *Aimbrell Shanks, Business Development Director*
  - *Karl Welch, Member*
- *Members of the SV Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women*
  - *Viera Whye, Chair*
  - *Angela Dibono, Membership Chair*
  - *Coy Garrett, Member*
- *Various members of the Ethiopian Community*
  - *Misrak Dubale*
  - *Amha Habteyes*
  - *Nebi Alemu, CLEA*
  - *Addis Zewdon*
  - *Melaku Aynalem*
  - *Mohammed Ali*
- *19 high school students from the following schools:*
  - *Andrew Hill High School*
  - *Gilroy High School*
  - *Gunderson High School*
  - *Homestead High School*
  - *James Lick High School*
  - *Lincoln High School*
  - *Monte Vista High School*
  - *Mount Pleasant High School*
  - *Mountain View High School*
  - *Overfelt High School*
  - *Pioneer High School*
  - *San Jose High School*
  - *Summit Rainier Charter High School*
  - *Wilcox High School*
- *10 college students from the following colleges and universities:*
  - *Evergreen Community College*
  - *San Jose City College*
  - *San Jose State University*