

Wilmington, Delaware
April 1, 2021

#0048 **WHEREAS**, tobacco use remains the nation’s and Delaware’s leading cause of preventable death and disease; and

Sponsor: **WHEREAS**, 13.6% of Delaware high school students actively use e-cigarettes, and 80 percent of young people who have ever used tobacco, started with a flavored or menthol products; and

Council Member Dixon **WHEREAS**, 1,800 Delaware students initiate tobacco use each year, with 72.6% of middle- and high-school students reporting they initiated e-cigarettes within social groups; and

Co-Sponsor: **WHEREAS**, 83% of youth e-cigarette smokers use flavored products, with 70% reporting they use e-cigarettes specifically because of the flavor; and

Council Member McCoy **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has concluded that e-cigarettes lead to increased smoking initiation among young adults and decreased success in quitting smoking, and

WHEREAS, conclusive evidence demonstrates that the use of tobacco products increases the risk for respiratory infections, weakens the immune system, and is a major cause of a number of chronic health conditions, including multiple lung diseases, heart disease, and cancer, and

WHEREAS, it is documented that people who utilize tobacco products are at greater risk for becoming addicted and suffer chronic lung disease that can compromise the ability to fulfill daily functions and lead to terminal illness, and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry initially and inaccurately marketed e-cigarettes as safer and healthier cigarettes which led to increased initiation; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed increased attention on lung health;
and

WHEREAS, smoking increases the risk of the most severe impacts of COVID-19,
preventing and reducing tobacco use is critical; and

WHEREAS, parents, schools, students and public health organizations, including the
Centers for Disease Control, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American
Lung Association, American Heart Association, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids,
Delaware State Conference of the NAACP, and Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League
support prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WILMINGTON** that this legislative body implores the State of Delaware to support
Representative Melissa Minor-Brown in her efforts to end the sale of flavored tobacco products
in the State of Delaware. This would protect Delaware communities and specifically
communities of color from the harms of flavored tobacco and reduce the ever increasing
tobacco experimentation by youth that perpetuates the cycle of addiction in impoverished
communities of color.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: A Resolution to implore the State of Delaware to take action and develop and
support legislation that would further prevent the sale of flavored tobacco products.