



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS**

Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

May 22, 2019

The Honorable Andre Dickens  
Atlanta City Council  
55 Trinity Ave, S.W.  
Suite 2900  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3584

The Honorable Matt Westmoreland  
Atlanta City Council  
55 Trinity Ave, S.W.  
Suite 2900  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3584

Dear Councilmember Dickens and Councilmember Westmoreland,

On behalf of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), I am writing in support of your proposed ordinance to prohibit smoking in public places and to include e-cigarettes in the definition of smoking. Based in Decatur, Ga., NACDD works to reduce the impact of chronic diseases on the population by advocating for preventive policies and programs. NACDD believes expanding Atlanta's smokefree law will help reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and prevent adverse health effects that lead to the development of chronic diseases.

Each year, an estimated 480,000 people die prematurely from cigarette smoking, including an estimated 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke exposure. Secondhand smoke can cause heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. For children, exposure causes respiratory infections, ear infections, and more frequent and severe asthma attacks. E-cigarettes also release harmful chemicals into the air and may expose bystanders to unsafe elements including ultrafine particles, heavy metals, and volatile organic compounds.

Attempts to limit exposure by creating separate smoking areas and filtering the air are not completely effective and leave non-smokers vulnerable to secondhand smoke and its harmful health effects. Any level of exposure is dangerous and eliminating smoking in all indoor spaces is the only effective way to protect the public.

NACDD appreciates your efforts to expand the law and keep Atlantans safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

John W. Robitscher, MPH  
NACDD Chief Executive Officer