

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

January 30, 2007

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Tobacco Control and Prevention Program, 924 million packs of cigarettes are consumed every year by those who are under the age of 18 nationwide, yielding \$480 million in annual profits for the tobacco industry. Approximately one-third of the 4,000 minors who begin smoking each day will die prematurely from smoking related illnesses. To prevent minors from smoking, California law prohibits the sale or furnishing of cigarettes, tobacco products and smoking paraphernalia to minors. But despite these efforts, the 2004 California Department of Health Services' Youth Purchase Survey found that 14% of California tobacco retailers and 31.5% of non-traditional tobacco retailers unlawfully sold tobacco products to minors in 2004.

State law allows counties and cities to enact local tobacco retail licensing ordinances and allows for the suspension or revocation of a retail license if a retailer sells to minors or violates other tobacco control laws. Fifty-one counties and cities in California have adopted local tobacco retail licensing ordinances to prevent minors from purchasing cigarettes and tobacco products. In Los Angeles County, only nine out of 88 incorporated cities have adopted tobacco retail licensing ordinances. Like the remaining 79 incorporated cities, the County's unincorporated areas are not governed by an

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ordinance that curtails youth access to tobacco products.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Business License Commission, in conjunction with the Director of Public Health and County Counsel, to conduct a public hearing to consider the establishment of a tobacco retail licensing ordinance for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, and to report back to the Board in 90 days with the Commission's findings and recommendations.

**I, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of Public Health to urge cities in Los Angeles County which do not have a tobacco retail licensing ordinance to consider the development and adoption of such an ordinance.

CK: S:\Motions\Tobacco Retail Licensing