

December 03, 2024

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Proclaiming February 2025 as “Fight for Air Climb” Month in the County of Los Angeles

The use of tobacco has serious public health implications and is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the County of Los Angeles (County). In the County, close to one in ten high-school students use e-cigarettes, also known as vape, which can lead to lung damage, nicotine addiction, and impact brain development, as nicotine can negatively change an adolescent’s brain, harming cell activities that control attention span, learning, and memory. In addition, poor air quality can negatively impact lung health. Nearly all residents in the County are affected by air pollution, with communities of color being most impacted. People of color are over three times more likely than White people to breathe the most polluted air. The Black community is disproportionately impacted by lung cancer, yet it is underrepresented in lung cancer clinical trials. This disparity impacts both rates of diagnosis and the tracking of morbidity and mortality, thus affecting the ability for research to inform potential treatments.

According to the County’s Department of Public Health (DPH), Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 representing the South Los Angeles area and the Second Supervisorial District (SD2) has some of the highest percentages of child asthma, adult smokers, e-cigarette users, lung cancer deaths, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and coronary heart disease. For adults in the County, only 5.7% use e-Cigarettes, but in SD2 that number jumps to 6.3%. Additionally, the overall lung cancer death rate is 20.3% in the County, while it is 26.8% in SPA 6.

To raise awareness and critical funds for lung disease awareness, prevention, and treatment, the American Lung Association (ALA) will host its annual 2025 Fight for Air Climb SoCal event on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in downtown Los Angeles. This event is ALA’s largest local community event with over 1,000 participants. The event provides an opportunity for County residents to improve their lung health by learning more about lung disease and prevention, connecting with other individuals who are living with lung

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disease, and remembering friends and loved ones lost due to asthma, COPD, lung cancer, and other lung diseases. Funds raised at this outdoor, endurance stair climb event will directly support research for improved diagnosis, treatment, and care for those who face lung disease. Funds are also used for advocacy and to provide continual up-to-date information on respiratory diseases. In addition, this event supports the goals of the Board of Supervisors to improve the health of all County residents by encouraging physical exercise, promoting awareness of lung health and wellness, and advancing efforts to fight for our rights to breathe clean air.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the month of February 2025 as “Fight for Air Climb Month” in the County of Los Angeles (County) in support of the American Lung Association’s annual 2025 Fight for Air Climb SoCal event, which encourages all County residents and employees to get appropriate medical screenings, prevent or quit tobacco and e-cigarette use, advocate for cleaner air, and reduce their risk of developing lung disease;
2. Urge all County employees and residents to learn about and consider joining a team for the 2025 Fight for Air Climb SoCal event at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025. More information can be found at: [Fight For Air Climb - Southern California - American Lung Association <https://action.lung.org/site/TR?>](https://action.lung.org/site/TR?>); and
3. Direct all County Department Wellness Coordinators to promote the 2025 Fight for Air Climb SoCal event and encourage colleagues to participate and support the event.

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