

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING
YOUTH NITROUS OXIDE ABUSE AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S
OFFICE TO HAVE PREPARED AN ORDINANCE BANNING THE SALE AND
DISTRIBUTION OF NITROUS OXIDE AND TO EXPLORE OTHER ACTIONS THAT
FURTHER PROTECT YOUTH FROM NITROUS OXIDE ABUSE**

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Youth Commission is responsible for identifying issues of concern to young people in the County and has raised up an important public health concern regarding the use and abuse of nitrous oxide among San Mateo County youth; and

WHEREAS, the abuse of nitrous oxide or "whippets" can cause long term negative health effects, including organ damage, depression, and psychosis; and

WHEREAS, although California law prohibits the sale of nitrous oxide to persons under the age of 18, the Youth Commission has expressed concern that nitrous oxide is being sold in shops across the County, potentially to minors in violation of state law; and

WHEREAS, the Eighteenth Biennial State California Healthy Kids Survey identified inhalant use as a persistent problem among young people in the State, highlighting the necessity for an affirmed commitment to prevent nitrous oxide abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County affirms its commitment to preventing the abuse of nitrous oxide among San Mateo County youth and commits to exploring actions the County can take to further protect the youth from the harmful effects of nitrous oxide abuse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Executive's Office is directed to have prepared an Ordinance banning the sale and distribution of nitrous oxide in the unincorporated areas of the County and present the Ordinance to the Board for its consideration as soon as feasible as well as to continue to work collaboratively with the Youth Commission to explore other actions the County might take to improve communication and outreach to young people regarding the harmful effects of nitrous oxide abuse and to improve the monitoring and reporting of the sale of nitrous oxide to underage persons by businesses in the County.

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