

Offered by: MAYOR HARRIGAN AND COUNCILWOMAN SIMS

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

RESOLUTION NO. 139 - 2016 adopting a Health in All Policies approach for the City of Akron that takes into account the complex environmental and social factors that contribute to poor health and health inequity in our communities, and systematically considers the short- and long-term health implications of policy decisions in order to improve health equity and health outcomes for all citizens of Akron; encouraging businesses, community leaders, and public officials at all levels of government to join in this Health in All Policies approach to policy and decision-making; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the City of Akron and its residents face a growing burden of largely preventable chronic illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, cancers, mental illness, substance abuse, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), obesity and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the burden of chronic illness and life expectancy vary significantly across neighborhoods, communities, and populations, often based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, even relatively well-off Akron residents who do not smoke and are not overweight tend to experience inferior health in comparison with like persons in other wealthy countries, affecting all age groups for multiple diseases, injuries, and both biological and behavioral risk factors; and

WHEREAS, people in disadvantaged communities often have fewer resources for health, which is reflected in significantly higher burdens of chronic illness, worse health outcomes, and shorter life expectancies; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of all people is a critical element in supporting a healthy and prosperous City of Akron, including economic sustainability, increasing workforce participation and productivity, and slowing the ongoing rise in medical care expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the physical, economic, and social environments in which people live, learn, work, and play influence the adoption of healthy lifestyles by making it more or less difficult for individuals to choose behaviors that promote or diminish health; and

WHEREAS, these environments are influenced by policies developed by the Mayor, Akron City Council, and the various City departments and offices relating to food access, housing, transportation, education, air quality, public safety, parks, criminal justice, employment, economic development, and other policy areas; and

WHEREAS, creating and sustaining healthy communities requires collaboration among government agencies, businesses, community-based organizations, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, strategies to create healthy communities provide shared benefits by simultaneously supporting improved air and water quality, protecting natural resources and agricultural lands, increasing the availability and affordability of housing, improving infrastructure systems, and planning sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, tools such as community-wide assessments and health impact assessments exist for identifying physical, economic, and social barriers to health improvement and for measuring the impact of policy decisions on these barriers; and

WHEREAS, identified health issues can best be addressed through collaboration and integrated environmental, social and health improvement policies; and

WHEREAS, the Health in All Policies approach uses health as a linking factor in bringing people together from across sectors to address major societal issues, focus on shared benefits, and develop win-win strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Health in All Policies approach is an integrated approach to achieve better health outcomes and greater sustainability by incorporating a health aspect into policy development across all sectors of the community, both public and private; and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that adopting a Health in All Policies approach will serve the public good and advance the public health, safety, security, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Akron.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Akron, Ohio that:

Section 1. That Akron City Council hereby endorses recognition of the complex environmental and social factors that impact health when developing policies.

Section 2. That Akron City Council endorses consideration of both short- and long-term health impacts, costs, and benefits, where appropriate, when weighing the merits of proposed legislation.

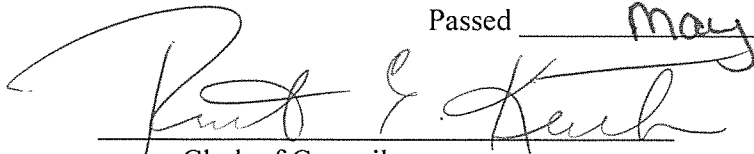
Section 3. That Akron City Council encourages public officials in all sectors and levels of government to recognize that health is influenced by policies relating to environmental quality, natural resources and land use, infrastructure and transportation systems, education and employment, affordable housing, public health, public safety, and sustainable communities, and to consider health when assessing all new policies.

Section 4. That Akron City Council likewise encourages business and community leaders who employ or serve residents of Akron to recognize that health is influenced by a broad range of policies and to consider health when assessing all new policies.

Section 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Section 6. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is immediately necessary for Council to express its adoption of a Health in All Policies approach for the City of Akron in order to improve the health and welfare of the citizens of the City, and provided this resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed May 2, 2016


Clerk of Council


President of Council

Approved 5/5, 2016


MAYOR

RECEIVED
CLERK OF COUNCIL
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