



TOWN OF FALMOUTH RESOLUTION
*In Support of Prohibiting the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products in
Falmouth*

WHEREAS, the expansion of flavored tobacco products, especially electronic smoking devices, over the last decade has coincided with a surge in youth tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, flavors in tobacco products promote youth (under 18) initiation and continued use of tobacco products by masking the taste and harshness of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that, regardless of the type of tobacco product, flavored products appeal to youth and young adults and, for many tobacco products, preference for flavored products declines as smoker age increases; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, more than 1 in 10 middle and high school students (more than 3 million students) in the United States had used a tobacco product during the past 30 days. 1 in 5 Maine high school students are currently using a tobacco product and, in 2021, 6.1% of Falmouth High School students reported having smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, more than 2.5 million students in the United States used e-cigarettes and 85% of those students used flavored e-cigarettes. In 2021, 27.9% of Falmouth High School students reported having used an electronic vapor product; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, “Youth use of tobacco products in any form is unsafe irrespective of whether it is smoked, smokeless, or electronic;” and

WHEREAS, smoking is the leading cause of preventable death. According to the CDC, if smoking continues at current rates, 5.6 million (1 out of every 13) of today’s children will ultimately die prematurely from a smoking related illness; and

WHEREAS, most flavored tobacco products contain nicotine, a highly addictive chemical that can negatively impact adolescent brain development and could also increase risk for future addiction to other drugs; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, to discourage youth tobacco use, Congress passed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act which prohibited the sale of flavored cigarettes other than menthol; and

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WHEREAS, additionally, six states and over 270 municipalities in the United States, including 6 Maine municipalities, have passed restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that a prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products in Falmouth may impact adult users; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products in Falmouth may result in lost revenue, and potential financial hardship, for tobacco retailers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH ASSEMBLED THIS 11TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023, THAT:

The Falmouth Town Council believes that reduced access to flavored tobacco products could potentially reduce youth resident initiation to tobacco products and thereby decrease youth tobacco and nicotine addiction and associated health risks. The Council believes that this outweighs the potential impacts on adult tobacco product users and retailers. The Council supports the enactment of an ordinance to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products by tobacco retailers in Falmouth.

Attest: _____
Ellen Planer, Town Clerk

Date: _____