

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the U.S., killing more than 490,000 people every year; and

WHEREAS, 95% of adult tobacco users start before the age of 21 with 90% starting before age 18; and

WHEREAS, nicotine harms developing brains and its use during adolescence can disrupt the formation of brain circuits that control attention and learning; and increase the risk for lifelong addiction; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 6 high school students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in 2021 (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) reported being current users of electronic vapor products (such as e-cigs, e-cigarettes, vape pens, e-hookahs or hookah pens); and

WHEREAS, using e-cigarettes and vaping products can worsen depression in youth and can contribute to development, maintenance and recurrence of anxiety disorders; and

WHEREAS, as of 2023 there are nearly 1,000 tobacco retail sites, such as convenient stores, gas stations, smoke and vape shops, etc. in Mecklenburg County. A review of a sample of these tobacco retailers revealed that more than 70% were located within a half mile of K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners supports North Carolina protecting our youth from easy access to addictive tobacco products by raising the age of purchase to 21 and creating a tobacco retail permitting system to help prevent sales to minors; and

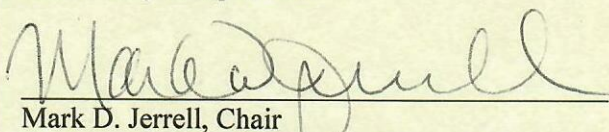
WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners is committed to fighting for a healthier, equitable future, free of addiction, for all young people and supports year-round youth tobacco prevention best practice policies and interventions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 1, 2025, as

“TAKE DOWN TOBACCO DAY OF ACTION”

in Mecklenburg County and commend its observance to all citizens.

This 1st day of April 2025



Mark D. Jerrell, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

