



Folk Alliance International Supports Smokefree Music Cities to Protect Musicians from Secondhand Smoke Exposure

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, asthma and other respiratory diseases, and lung cancer;¹

WHEREAS, the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen;²

WHEREAS, a significant amount of secondhand smoke exposure occurs in the Workplace and employees who work in smoke-filled businesses suffer a 25-50% higher risk of heart attack and higher rates of death from cardiovascular disease and cancer, as well as increased acute respiratory disease and measurable decrease in lung function;³

WHEREAS, musicians exposure to secondhand smoke is dramatically higher than the regular populace; in fact, secondhand smoke levels in bars and casinos are significantly (400-600 percent) higher compared to the offices most of us work in;^{4, 5}

WHEREAS, musicians breathe in more secondhand smoke than any other type of worker; research has shown that waiters/waitresses who work in the same workplace as musicians perform show the highest levels of cotinine – a biological marker of secondhand smoke exposure – compared to all other workers. This translates to a lifetime risk of dying from heart disease of 1 in 100 and of dying from lung cancer of 1 in 1000. Our musicians work in these same smoke-filled environments and face the same life threatening risks;^{6, 7}

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires that disabled persons have access to public places and workplaces, deems impaired respiratory function to be a disability;⁸

WHEREAS, smoke-filled workplaces result in higher worker absenteeism due to respiratory diseases, lower productivity, higher cleaning and maintenance costs, increased health insurance rates, and increased liability claims for diseases related to exposure to secondhand smoke;⁹

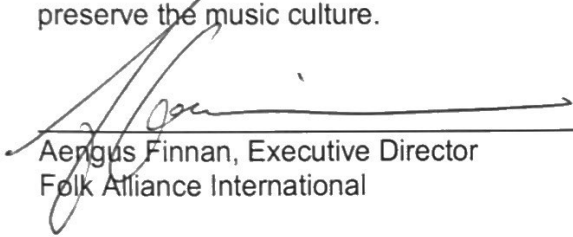
WHEREAS, smoking was cited as the number one cause of fires on a Building Owners and Management Association (BOMA) International fire safety survey and that the elimination of smoking from a building reduced cleaning expenses by an average of 10%¹⁰

WHEREAS, major music cities such as Atlanta, GA, Austin, TX, Branson, MO, Chicago, IL, Los Angeles, CA, New Orleans, LA, New York City, NY and more are 100% smokefree cities¹¹ and thriving economies;

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Therefore be it Resolved that:

Folk Alliance International fully supports all organizations, musicians, and advocates in their efforts to achieve full protection from secondhand smoke in bars, clubs, casinos, and other music venues. Folk Alliance International supports all efforts that will further protect musicians and preserve the music culture.


Angus Finnan, Executive Director
Folk Alliance International

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Date of Adoption

¹ US Department of Health and Human Services. The health consequences of smoking: 50 years of progress. A report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2014. <https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf>

² Environmental Health Information Service (EHIS), "Environmental tobacco smoke: first listed in the Ninth Report on Carcinogens," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Public Health Service, National Toxicology Program, 2000

³ Pitsavos, C.; Panagiotakos, D.B.; Chrysoshoou, C.; Skoumas, J.; Tzioumis, K.; Stefanadis, C.; Toutouzas, P., "Association between exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and the development of acute coronary syndromes: the CARDIO2000 case-control study," *Tobacco Control* 11(3): 220-225, September 2002

⁴ Bergman, T.A.; Johnson, D.L.; Boatright, D.T.; Smallwood, K.G.; Rando, R.J., "Occupational exposure of nonsmoking nightclub musicians to environmental tobacco smoke," *American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal* 57(8): 746-752, August 1996. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15428119691014611>

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⁶ Lawhorn, N.A.; Lirette, D.K.; Klink, J.L.; Hu, C.Y.; Contreras, C.; Bryant, T-R.; Brown, L.F.; Diaz, J.H., "Workplace exposure to secondhand smoke among non-smoking hospitality employees," *Nicotine and Tobacco Research* 15(2): 413-418, February 2013

⁷ Hedley, A.J., McGhee, S.M., Repace, J.L., et.al., "Risks for Heart Disease and Lung Cancer from Passive Smoking by Workers in the Catering Industry," *Toxicological Sciences*, Volume 90, Issue 2, 1 April 2006, Pages 539-548, <https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfj110>

⁸ Daynard, R.A., "Environmental tobacco smoke and the Americans with Disabilities Act," *Nonsmokers' Voice* 15(1): 8-9

⁹ "The high price of cigarette smoking," *Business & Health* 15(8), Supplement A: 6-9, August 1997.

¹⁰ Garland, W.S., *BOMA Supports Smoking Ban in Buildings*, www.boma.org, [n.d.]. Accessed on October 31, 2002.

¹¹ *American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation*. (2018). U.S. Tobacco Control Laws Database [database]. Berkeley, CA: ANR Foundation.