AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SMOKING IN COUNTY BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES

Whereas, counties are granted broad police power authority to protect the health, safety and welfare of county employees and the general public of N.C.G.S. 153A-121 and authority to regulate the use of county property by N.C.G.S. 153A-169.

Whereas, it is the public interest to improve indoor air quality, reduce fire hazards, and minimize any health risks associated with involuntary exposure to environmental tobacco smoke;

Now, therefore, Be It Ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the county of Washington, North Carolina, that:

Section 1. Definitions.

- (a) "Smoking" shall mean the inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying of a lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette or other combustible tobacco product.
- Section 2. Smoking Prohibited in County Buildings. It shall be unlawful for any person to smoke in any building or facility or portion of a building or facility now or hereafter owned, leased, operated, occupied, managed or controlled by the county.
- Section 3. Exemptions. County's now or hereafter owned or leased vehicles when non-smokers are not present.
- Section 4. <u>Penalty.</u> Violation of this ordinance shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable in accordance with N.C.G.S. 153A-123.
- Section 5. <u>Conflict of Laws</u>. If any portion of this ordinance or the enforcement thereof is found to be preempted by state or federal law, such preemption shall not operate to invalidate the rest of the ordinance and the same shall remain in full force and effect. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 6. <u>Effective Date</u>. This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 20 day of Seatentie,

Andrew B. Aller, Chairman

Attest:

ois C. Askew, Clerk to the Board