



Mecklenburg County Medical Society

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Resolution

Community Water Fluoridation

WHEREAS, dental caries is a devastating disease inflicting pain, infection, difficulty chewing, poor nutrition, crooked teeth, school absenteeism, academic underachievement and poor self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, treatment of dental caries is costly, involving multiple fillings, extractions, and expensive bridgework; and

WHEREAS, the adjustment of fluoride--a naturally occurring element in water--to the optimal concentration of 0.7 parts per million in community water has been shown to decrease the occurrence of dental caries by up to 40% in communities where it is utilized¹; and

WHEREAS, fluoride in drinking water at the optimal level is safe and effective, with no controlled, scientifically valid studies substantiating any harm to those who drink it²; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte became the first jurisdiction in the United States to fluoridate the community water supply in 1949, benefitting its citizens for 65 uninterrupted years³; and

WHEREAS, anti-fluoride groups across the country have used claims based on unscientific "research" and scare tactics to influence elected officials to remove fluoride from community water; and

WHEREAS, every dollar spent in fluoridation of the water supply saves \$38 in treatment of dental caries⁴; and

WHEREAS, fluoridation of community water benefits all who use it, regardless of income, socioeconomic status, or race; and

WHEREAS, fluoridation of community water is endorsed by the U.S. Public Health Service, the American Medical Association, the American Dental Association, the World Health Organization, the International Association for Dental Research, the American Water Works Association, and the North Carolina Division of Public Health⁵; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified community water fluoridation as one of the top ten great public health achievements of the 20th century⁶;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mecklenburg County Medical Society affirms the importance of continued fluoridation of the City of Charlotte water supply at the recommended level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mecklenburg County Medical Society encourages other community water system operators in Mecklenburg County to fluoridate water at the recommended level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mecklenburg County Medical Society advocate with appropriate elected officials and policy makers for this important intervention that reduces disease and enhances wellness.

¹ *MMWR*, August 17, 2001; **50**(RR14); 1-42.

² National Research Council. *Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standards*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2006.

³ NC DHHS, Division of Public Health, Oral Health Section.

⁴ U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

⁵ U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

⁶ *MMWR*, October 22, 1999; **48**(41); 933-940.

Sandi Buchanan, Executive Director

Mecklenburg County Medical Society

Per Board of Director Approval



Signature

6-11-14

Date