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OVER A QUARTER OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S POPULATION WILL BE COVERED BY SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE ORDINANCES

Columbia, Richland County, Town of Lexington to Implement Ordinances Week of September 29th

COLUMBIA, SC (September 29, 2008) – Over a quarter of South Carolina's population will soon be covered by smoke-free workplace ordinances with three local governments in the Midlands area implementing their ordinances during the week of September 29th. There are now 21 local governments in the state that have passed ordinances for the health of all workers.

The City of Columbia and Richland County will implement their ordinances on Wednesday, October 1st, and the Town of Lexington will begin theirs on Friday, October 3rd.

“No one should have to choose between their health and a paycheck and that includes service industry workers and musicians,” said Gina Lane, South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative State Program Coordinator. “The June 2006 report from the Surgeon General clearly states that secondhand smoke is a health hazard. All workers should be able to breathe clean air at work, no matter what industry they work in.”

Sullivan's Island was the first municipality in the state to pass an ordinance in May of 2006, and eleven other municipalities passed ordinances within a year of that date. Since the State Supreme Court ruling in March of 2008, which upheld the right of local governments to pass smoke-free workplace ordinances, nine more municipalities have passed ordinances of their own. Several more counties and cities in the state are currently discussing the issue including York County, Easley, Rock Hill, and Spartanburg.

There will be a smoke-free happy hour celebration recognizing the new ordinance at Harper's in Five Points on Wednesday, October 1st from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

About the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative

The South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative is a statewide assembly of the leading health organizations, community coalitions, and businesses committed to reducing the toll of tobacco use in South Carolina by providing resources and education on tobacco related issues to advocates, lawmakers, and concerned citizens. For more information, please visit www.smokefreesc.org.

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