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**ORDINANCE # 01-08**

**AN ORDINANCE OF LIBERTY COUNTY, FLORIDA;  
PROHIBITING PLACEMENT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN  
SELF-SERVICE DISPLAYS ACCESSIBLE TO MINORS;  
PROVIDING FOR ORDINANCE TO BE EFFECTIVE IN  
INCORPORATED AREAS OF ANY MUNICIPALITY WHOSE  
GOVERNING BODY HAS CONSENTED; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS;  
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES;  
PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Legislature has enacted laws located in Chapter 569, Florida Statutes, that provide of increased regulation of the retail sale of tobacco products; and

**WHEREAS**, within Chapter 569, Florida Statutes, the Florida Legislature has provided for civil, administrative, and/or criminal penalties for the sale of tobacco products to a person under the age of 18 and for the possession of such tobacco products by a person under the age of 18; and

**WHEREAS**, the settlement agreement between the State of Florida and the tobacco industry provides for a pilot program which is aimed specifically at the reduction of the use of tobacco by persons under the age of 18; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have found that a majority of those Americans who die of tobacco related diseases became addicted to tobacco products prior to reaching the legal age of consent; and

**WHEREAS**, survey results conducted statewide in November of 1998 showed that 86% of tobacco retailers have tobacco products located on, in front of, and beside the counter; and

**WHEREAS**, while serving as head of the Food and Drug Administration, David Kessler, announced that every day 3,000 children become smokers and almost half of them, eventually, will die from smoking-related illnesses. Smoking is this nations' leading preventable cause of death and kills more than 400,000 people a year, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners and the citizens of LIBERTY County are concerned about the use of tobacco products by persons under the age of 18, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners believes that a reduction in the availability, both visually and physically, of tobacco products to persons under the age of 18 will likely lead to a reduction in tobacco products use by that age group; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 569, Florida Statute, does not prohibit local governments from regulating the placement and merchandising of tobacco products; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Supreme Court has held in *Village of Hoffman Estates v. Flipside Hoffman Estates, Inc.*, 455 U.S. 489, 102 S. Ct. 1186, 71. Ed. 2d 362 (1981), that those ordinances which regulate the commercial marketing of items that may be used for illegal purposes do not violate the First Amendment; and



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**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners desires to regulate the placement of tobacco products as it is in the best interests of public health, safety, and welfare;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LIBERTY COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**SECTION 1. TITLE**

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "MERCHANDISING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ORDINANCE".

**SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

**BUSINESS** means any sole proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, corporation, or limited liability company of other business formed for profit making or non-profit purpose in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of LIBERTY County including all retail establishments where goods and services are sold.

**PERSON** means any individual, partnership, cooperative association, private corporation, personal representative, receiver, trustee, assignee or other legal entity.

**SELF SERVICE MERCHANDISING** means the open display of tobacco products to which the public has access without the intervention of the vendors, storeowners, or other store employees.

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS** means loose tobacco suitable for smoking, snuff, snuff flour, plug and twist tobacco, fine cuts and other chewing tobaccos and other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such manner as to be suitable for chewing, inhaling, smoking or ingesting in any matter and including, but not limited to cigarettes and cigars.

**TOBACCO RETAILER** means any person or business that operates a store, stand, booth, concession, or other place at which sales of tobacco products are made to purchasers for consumption or use.

**VENDOR ASSISTED** means the customer has no access to tobacco products without the assistance of the vendor, storeowner, or other store employees.

**SECTION 3. MERCHANDISING PROHIBITED**

No person, business, tobacco retailer, or other establishment subject to this ordinance shall sell, permit to be sold, offer for sale or display for sale any tobacco products by means of self-service merchandising. Only vendor-assisted sales are allowed, unless access to the premises by persons under the age of 18 is prohibited by the person, business, tobacco retailer, or other establishment or prohibited by law.

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**SECTION 4. INCLUSION OF INCORPORATED AREAS**

This ordinance shall be applicable and enforceable throughout the unincorporated areas of the County and throughout the incorporated area of any municipality whose governing body has consented to being included in this Ordinance.

**SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY**

If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way effect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 6. PENALTIES**

- A. Any person or business that violates this ordinance shall upon conviction be guilty of a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided by law.
- B. The penalty for a second conviction of this ordinance shall be at least double the penalty for the first conviction, except that any penalty shall not exceed the maximum penalty set by law for a misdemeanor of the second degree.
- C. All convictions for violation of this Ordinance shall be reported to the State of Florida, Division of Alcoholic Beverages And Tobacco.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATES**

This ordinance shall take effect one month after the ordinance was officially passed.

**SECTION 8. PROVIDE FOR INCLUSION IN CODE**

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners of LIBERTY County, Florida, and it is hereby provided, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the code of Ordinances of LIBERTY County, Florida. To this end, the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article" or other appropriate designation.

ENACTED in Regular Session, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2001

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
LIBERTY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST: Robert Hill (SEAL) Clerk  
By: [Signature] Chairman