American Jail Association Resolution

Nonsmoking Jails

WHEREAS, it has been found that many disabilities such as respiratory diseases, hypertension, and heart disease may be caused by smoking, and

WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General and National Academy of Sciences scientists have stated that environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), caused by sidestream smoke coming off the burning end of cigarettes and exhaled smoke, is as dangerous to the nonsmoking population as it is to smokers because of the substances emitted, and

WHEREAS, correctional employees are exposed to passive smoke created by inmates, and

WHEREAS, fire safety is of ever-increasing concern in the correctional environment, and

WHEREAS, according to Fire Safety in Correctional Facilities, a study by the National Fire Protection Association, 85 percent of fires in correctional institutions were started by use of smoking materials, and

WHEREAS, smoking contributes to the deterioration of correctional facilities housing inmates by turning walls yellow from nicotine, clogging vents, creating cigarette burns on furnishings, and requiring high costs for maintenance and repair, and

WHEREAS, nonsmoking employees and prisoners have a right to work and live in a smoke-free environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Jail Association support the implementation of nonsmoking policies in jails.

Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 20, 1990.
Revised on May 19, 1993.
Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.