



Manhasset CASA Youth Committee Statement

Town of North Hempstead Public Hearing

Tuesday, July 12, 2016 7:30 p.m.



Good Evening. I am Ivy Jin, President of the Manhasset High School CASA Youth Committee Club, I'm Jessalyn Chuang, a member of the Manhasset High School CASA Youth Committee Club and I'm Remy Wang a graduate of the Manhasset High School CASA Youth Committee Club.

(Ivy Jin) Our club's purpose is to promote healthy and safe lifestyles for our peers and future students at Manhasset Secondary School and provide the youth voice of the Manhasset Community Coalition against Substance Abuse. We are here tonight to thank you for your efforts to regulate indoor smoking establishments and address regulations related to advertising of electronic or e-cigarettes in September. We hope the regulations will prevent teens from using e-cigarettes as a study from the CDC, FDA, and Georgia State University found that during 2011-2013, the number of never-smoking youth who used e-cigarettes increased from 79,000 in 2011 to more than 263,000 in 2013. Among never-smokers who had used e-cigarettes at least once, 43.9% had an intention to smoke conventional cigarettes. The study also showed that of all students who had never smoked a cigarette, 90% reported some level of exposure to advertising or promotions for cigarettes or other tobacco products.

(Remy Wang) Whether teens are smoking e-cigarettes, traditional cigarettes or hookah – all have detrimental health effects for the developing teen brain and body. The products contain nicotine, a very addictive chemical that affects the brain. Smoking diminishes lung function, airway resistance and cellular changes. Today's teens (66%) believe that "just flavoring" is in an e-cigarette while the vapor contains acetone (nail polish remover), xylene (paint thinner), and diethylene glycol (anti-freeze for cars). Second hand exposure to the vapor also includes exposure to nicotine, chromium, nickel, and zinc. E-cigarette cartridges contain nitrosamines which are known carcinogens, formaldehyde and toxic metal nanoparticles. In addition, liquid nicotine is lethal for adults at 1 tablespoon for children it is only a teaspoon.

(Jessalyn Chuang) Regarding hookah, the American Cancer Society and World Health Organization both indicate that hookah smoking is not safer than a cigarette as smokers inhale high levels of nicotine, carbon monoxide, tar and other hazardous substances. According to the 2015 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 10.8% of teens reported smoking traditional cigarettes on at least 1 day during the last 30 days while 24.1% used electronic vapor products including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs and hookah pens. We thank you for addressing this alarming public health issue for today's teens and we hope it will help teens as well as adults make healthy and safe choices. Thank you.