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Date: June 21, 2017

Re: Public Hearing on Multnomah County Tobacco 21 policy concept

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Friends and Colleagues,

As you are likely aware, our state legislature has been considering a policy to raise the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco and vape products from 18 to 21. Tobacco 21 ('T21'), has been one of my top priorities since entering office. Raising the legal sales age is a smart, simple intervention that will save thousands of lives, and millions of dollars in our health care system by preventing future tobacco addiction.

I know that our colleagues in Salem have been working hard, and we are all hopeful that the Legislature will get this important public health policy across the finish line before adjourning. However, this outcome is not certain, and I want to be ready to act swiftly here in Multnomah County in the event that the legislature does not act.

I've requested time for a public hearing at our July 13th Board of County Commissioners meeting to discuss a prospective Multnomah County T21 policy. If the legislature does not take action, this hearing will provide an initial opportunity for the public to testify as we consider adoption of a county ordinance. As with all of our work, public engagement is crucial. I will keep you apprised of additional opportunities for public input as they are available.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Sharon Meieran