

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 10



City and County of San Francisco

SHAMANN WALTON

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SUPERVISOR WALTON TO REVISE SODA WARNING LEGISLATION

SAN FRANCISCO - On January 31st, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco struck down a San Francisco ordinance requiring health warnings on advertisements for sodas and sugary drinks. District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton announced at today's Board of Supervisors meeting that he will be introducing an amendment to revise the ordinance requiring health warnings on soda ads and will be requiring the City Attorney to hold a closed session on this case.

"Low-income families are significantly more likely to be affected by obesity and diabetes and many residents of the Bayview live in areas where fresh produce and healthy food choices are already a struggle to access," said Supervisor Shamann Walton. "In fact, the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood had more per capita emergency room visits due to diabetes between 2009 and 2011 than any other neighborhood in San Francisco."

"We cannot ignore the consequences of the Ninth Circuit Court's decision" said Supervisor Vallie Brown. "Nor can we ignore the facts about Big Soda—that it's unhealthy and that the industry spends billions of dollars targeting our youth and communities. I'm committed to going back to the table with Supervisor Walton to amend this important legislation to meet court scrutiny and ensure San Franciscans have clear information about the health impacts of soda."

San Franciscans need to be aware of the health impacts of sugary beverages and need to have adequate access to nutritional information for the products they consume. Sugar-sweetened beverages are also aggressively marketed, to children, adolescents, young adults, or others while The American Heart Association reports that about one in three teenaged or younger children in the United States are overweight or obese and that childhood obesity is now the number one health concern among American parents, ahead of drug abuse and smoking.

"Sugary drinks are making people sick and giving children diabetes, and we must provide people with accurate information about these product's health impacts," said Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), who authored the original version of the health warning law when he was a San Francisco Supervisor. "The Ninth Circuit issued a bad ruling striking down the law, but at least the court suggested a path to amending the law to allow it to pass legal muster. I commend Supervisors Walton and Brown for stepping up to lead in this important effort.

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