



2014 IAFP All Member Assembly

Resolution of Commendation

**Bechara Choucair, MD – Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health
Introduced by Carolyn Lopez, MD, Past President**

WHEREAS Bechara Choucair is a family physician who serves as Commissioner for the Chicago Department of Public Health and,

WHEREAS Bechara Choucair has spearheaded numerous efforts to improve the health of the people of Chicago and,

WHEREAS early in Bechara Choucair's tenure as Commissioner and with the support of Mayor Rahm Emmanuel a program known as Healthy Chicago was announced and

WHEREAS *Healthy Chicago* is a comprehensive plan to address the problems that threaten the health of Chicagoans and developed in cooperation with interested parties and stakeholders and

WHEREAS Chicago Department of Public Health and Mayor Rahm Emanuel launched *Healthy Chicago* in August 2011 with an ambition agenda to address some of the city's leading health problems and improve the overall wellness of city residents.

WHEREAS among these efforts was an initiative to regulate e-cigarettes which led to a City Council ordinance to include e-cigarettes under Chicago's Clean Indoor Air Act

WHEREAS Chicago has been a national leader in establishing tobacco regulations. Chicago has raised its tax on cigarettes to reach a combined federal, state and local tax of \$7.17, pushing the total cost of one pack to \$12 or more. In addition, the Chicago City Council has passed a law restricting sales of flavored tobacco and menthol cigarettes within 500 feet of a school. That is the first time in the nation's history that menthol has been included in laws that regulate flavored tobacco.

WHEREAS The city's smoking rate among high-school students has fallen from 13.6 percent in 2011 to 10.7 percent in 2013; a 20 percent decline in just two years.

WHEREAS – Healthy Chicago is also working with public health officials on a program to improve nutrition and combat obesity. The city identified neighborhoods that were considered "food deserts"(www.cityofchicago.org) because of a lack of grocery stores and has created kiosks that feature low-cost, fresh produce and placed them near federally qualified health centers.

WHEREAS Chicago has identified neighborhoods with high obesity rates and provided children with safe places to play through the PlayStreets program;(www.cityofchicago.org)

WHEREAS Healthy Chicago reflects the philosophy, mission and goals of family physicians, be it

RESOLVED that the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians honor Bechara Choucair, MD with this Resolution of Commendation and that a copy be given to the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Adopted by the IAFP All-Member Assembly, November 8, 2014