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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Fifth Annual “Take a Bite Out of Smoking” Campaign Begins**

Campaign recognizes and supports local restaurants offering smoke-free dining

(Las Vegas, Nev., - October 18, 2004) – The Clark County Health District Tobacco Control Program’s annual “Take a Bite Out of Smoking” campaign begins today. Established in 1999, the campaign promotes, recognizes and supports local restaurants that offer smoke-free dining environments.

“The campaign is in its fifth year, and we continue to see an increase in the number of restaurants meeting the smoke-free standard,” said Mandi York, tobacco control coordinator for the health district. “This year’s campaign begins with 210 participating restaurants, and we hope to increase that number to over 300,” said York.

“We urge all restaurant patrons to show their support for smoke-free dining establishments, and encourage restaurant owners to make their establishments smoke free,” said Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer.

To achieve smoke-free status, a restaurant must meet several criteria. First, it must have an interior seating area. Second, the interior of the restaurant must be completely smoke free year round. Finally, the dining area of any restaurant must be separated and completely isolated from any area where smoking is permitted, such as an adjoining bar or lounge.

The “Take a Bite Out of Smoking” campaign is paid for by grant funds received by the Clark County Health District Tobacco Control Program from the Taskforce for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (tobacco master settlement money). This year’s campaign runs from mid-October to mid-November.

For additional information and a list of participating smoke-free restaurants, visit <http://www.getthehealthyclarkcounty.org> or call the Clark County Health District Tobacco Control Program at (702) 759-1266.

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