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NEWS RELEASE

TOBACCO-FREE COALITION COMMENDS CLERK'S COMPLIANCE IN CHECKS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., (October 20, 2010) - The Tobacco-Free Delaware County Coalition wants to commend local store clerks who refused to sell tobacco to underage teens in a police compliance check operation this summer.

Clerks in seven local carryouts and drive-throughs acted properly by checking the ID of the 16-year-old who attempted to make the purchases under police surveillance and refusing to sell him tobacco. Twelve others sold cigarettes or snuff to the teen with no questions asked. They were cited for illegal tobacco sales to minors.

Delaware City Police conducted the tobacco compliance checks on June 29 in response to parents' complaints about businesses selling tobacco to their high school age children. City police Sgt. Mark Leatherman shared this information at the Tobacco-Free Coalition's September meeting. Sgt. Leatherman said so far, all but two of the sellers have been found guilty and fined \$100 plus court costs in Delaware Municipal Court.

The tobacco compliance check was planned in conjunction with an underage alcohol sales check which was conducted in August. Sgt. Leatherman said that alcohol sales compliance checks yielded five illegal sales to a 17-year-old informant, but clerks in 12 other businesses did not sell alcohol to the teen.

"We were impressed by the diligence with which the Delaware City Police conducted these compliance checks," said Tobacco-Free Delaware County Chairman Len Fisher. "We will be providing and promoting education to store owners and clerks to assure they know the law

and will be able to follow it. Parents should not have to worry about their children getting hooked on tobacco sold to them,” stated Fisher.

For more information about the Tobacco-Free Delaware County Coalition, contact Linda Diamond at 740-203-2016 or ldiamond@delawarehealth.org.