



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RSA Tower 201 Monroe Street, Suite 914 Montgomery, AL 36104

Phone 334-206-5300 Fax 334-206-5534

www.adph.org

Popular restaurants adopt smoke-free policies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Barry Riddle
(334) 206-5604

Yum! Brands Inc. has announced that its company-owned establishments are going smoke free. The announcement cites the importance of customer and employee health and said the move is in response to the growing concern and heightened awareness of secondhand smoke, lung cancer illness and recent lung cancer deaths.

Yum! Brands Inc. includes restaurants such as KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken), Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, Long John Silver's and A&W All-American Foods.

Dr. Donald E. Williamson, state health officer, applauds no smoking policies in restaurants and elsewhere. "So far this year, a dozen cities in Alabama have increased protection from secondhand smoke for employees and the public, and much more work needs to be done. It is refreshing to see more businesses are coming on board to join the effort for a smoke-free Alabama."

Leaders of voluntary health organizations such as Alabama's cancer, heart and lung associations also have come out strongly in support of smoke-free policies.

Freida Posey, the policy coordinator for the American Cancer Society in Alabama, stated, "It is apparent the argument that no smoking policies hurt businesses is going by the wayside as more and more studies prove otherwise and businesses like these are protecting their employees and patrons from the dangers of secondhand smoke. I hope other businesses will follow the lead and support our efforts to have smoke-free public places and worksites across Alabama."

John Wilson, policy coordinator for the Heart Association of Alabama, commented, "In all of the polls and surveys conducted in Alabama about secondhand smoke exposure, the vast majority of Alabamians support smoke-free environments. This decision reflects those feelings, and will certainly improve the quality of life for many. Nonsmokers have the right to breathe clean air."

Angela Bush of the American Lung Association of Alabama reports, "I congratulate the Yum! Brands Inc. restaurant leaders for making this decision to be smoke free. Smoking sections do not work because smoke knows no bounds. Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals and at least 60 carcinogens. It is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States."

Yum! Brands Inc., based in Louisville, Ky., has nearly 34,000 restaurants in more than 100 countries and territories.

In Alabama Yum! Brands has 374 stores, and nationally about 75 percent of stores are franchise-owned. The company will actively encourage all franchised operators to participate in this effort.

8/31/05