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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MEDIA INQUIRIES

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New York City and New Jersey announce Bills to Ban Sale of Tobacco and E-cigarettes to Under 21

Today, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn hosted a press conference at City Hall to announce proposed city legislation to increase the age to sell tobacco and electronic smoking devices to age 21 from age 18. The bill is sponsored by Councilman James Gennaro from Queens.

Speaker Quinn invited New Jersey legislators Senator Richard Codey and Assemblyman Ruben Ramos, who announced their bill to increase the age to sell, furnish or give tobacco or electronic smoking devices, from age 19 to 21. New York Senator Diane Savino and Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal were also in attendance to announce their state bill to raise the age of sale to 21.

Six communities in Massachusetts require persons be 21 to be sold tobacco: Arlington, Ashland, Canton, Dover, Needham and Sharon. Ashland includes nicotine delivery products.

“We are pleased that New York City and New Jersey are trying helping young people not start to smoke,” states Karen Blumenfeld, Esq., Executive Director of Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy, a non-profit that encourages tobacco-free living and smokefree environments. “Thank you to New York City and bill sponsor Councilman James Gennaro, for their leadership, as well as New Jersey Senator Codey and Assemblyman Ramos.”

90% of all people who use tobacco-related products do so prior to age 21. “Reducing access to tobacco and nicotine products for young adults will help them lead healthier lives and positively impact the health of those around them,” says Blumenfeld.