



February 20, 2006

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
414 286-3787

Another Step Toward A Smoke-Free City

Revised Ordinance Offers Compromise to Hotels & Bars

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. is releasing a revised version of his Smoke Free Ordinance today. The changes are the result of a series of public informational meetings held last year, and the alderman says the revisions meet the needs and concerns of the business community.

The ordinance prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and places of employment within the City of Milwaukee with some exceptions. "The purpose of the ordinance is to protect the public from the risks associated with secondhand smoke," said Ald. Davis. "I look forward to another spirited discussion on protecting the health of our citizens."

The proposed ordinance would make virtually all public places in Milwaukee smoke-free three months after passage. But a compromise provides a phase-in period for taverns. The ordinance would be effective two years and three months after passage for class "B" taverns that derive at least 75% of their gross proceeds from the sale of alcohol beverages.

In addition, hotels and motels would be allowed to designate up to 20% of their rooms as smoking rooms.

- Other features of the proposed ordinance are:
- All smoking would be banned inside places that are open to the public, places of employment, and other areas under the control of these proprietors.
- Outdoor smokers would be required to stay 15 feet away from the entrance of any building where smoking is prohibited.
- Enforcement would be primarily by the Health Department, not police.
- Exceptions to the regulations include:
 - private residences (except those operated as day care centers)
 - family owned and operated businesses that exclude the public from designated smoking areas
 - retail tobacco stores where the main source of revenue is tobacco
 - outdoor patios
 - the stage of a theater, if smoking is part of the production

A permanent exemption would apply to public buildings or places of employment where the area has been equipped with air filtration or purification devices to render exposure to secondhand smoke equivalent to exposure in the outdoor air surrounding the establishment.

(More)

Anti-Smoking Ordinance/ADD ONE

Fines for a first violation would range from \$75 to \$125. Additional violations within a calendar year would run from \$150 to \$200. "It's rare that we have an opportunity to save lives," said Ald. Davis. "Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States."

Cities across the country, including Appleton, Chicago, Kenosha, La Crosse, Los Angeles, Madison and New York City have passed ordinances that regulate smoking in public places and places of employment.

The ordinance will be considered by the Common Council's Public Safety Committee at a special meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2006 in room 301-B at City Hall. If passed, it would then go on to the full council on March 21, 2006.

Go to <http://legistar.milwaukee.gov/detailreport/?key=21913> to view the complete text of the proposed ordinance.