

6/15/11-Adam Sampieri [asampieri@gmail.com]

Dear Ms. Harris,

I am a proud Durham resident, a teacher, a musician, and a part-time employee of a local Durham business. My wife and I have made our home here. We hope to raise a family here. I am also a proud ex-smoker and wholeheartedly support the ban on smoking in public places in Durham. I support it for my own health, the health of our fellow Durhamites, and the health of all those visiting our amazing city. This is an opportunity to lead and set a remarkable example for healthy living in this, an area built on the tobacco business. What an extraordinary and important precedent to set! We've preserved our tobacco history in the beautiful architecture downtown. Let us let that be the window to our past as we grow into a healthier and brighter future as a city and county that cares--one that is willing to stand up and truly support the health of its citizens. Thank you for your support on this important issue.

Best regards,

Adam Sampieri

Durham, NC

Adam Sampieri

www.sampieri80.com

asampieri@gmail.com

973-903-2872

6/15/11-Kimberly Williams [KWilliams@lungusa.org]

Hello Ms. Harris,

On behalf of the American Lung Association in North Carolina, please accept the attached as our formal comments on the proposed smoking rule. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Durham County Board of Health for their continued commitment to protecting the health of residents and in particular to lung health issues.

We look forward to hearing the outcome of this proposed rule.

Many thanks,

Kim

6/4/11-Robyn Glushik [rglushik@frontier.com]

Dear Gayle,

I hope the county will ban smoking in public places. I have two young children and I don't want them being exposed to second-hand smoke on playgrounds, in stores, or at the park. As they get older, I know I won't even want them to see people smoking. I believe smokers should be able to smoke on their own property, but not on public property where their actions have consequences for everyone around them.

Thank you, Robyn Glushik

6/3/11-Daniel Westreich [danielw@gmail.com]

Durham County Board of Health
Attn: Gayle Harris, Director

As a PhD in epidemiology and a parent of a 2-year old: I am fully in favor of the proposed smoking ban.

Thank you very much.

Daniel Westreich
1125 Anderson St.
Durham, NC

6/3/11-Wendy Edds [wendyedds@gmail.com]

As an individual who suffers from migraines brought on by exposure to cigarette smoke, I support the cigarette ban. As a mother of young children, I support the cigarette ban. As a physician who has seen the devastating affects of cigarette smoke, I support the cigarette ban.

Sincerely,
Wendy Edds, MD
Sevier St
Durham, NC

6/3/11-Jon Guze [jonguze@mindspring.com]

Dear Ms. Harris:

I would like to record my opposition to the proposed rule banning smoking in outdoor public places in Durham. Despite its good intentions, the effect of such a ban would be to cruelly victimize the weakest and most afflicted members of our community and make their lives even worse than they already are.

Because smoking is so dirty and unhealthy, those of us who don't smoke often find it hard to sympathize with those who do. We tend to feel that, if smokers are too pig-headed or weak-willed to quit, they should at least do their smoking in private where it won't bother the rest of us. What we may not realize, however, is that many smokers can neither quit nor do their smoking in private because they are mentally ill, or homeless, or both.

Only a little more than 20% of the general population smokes; however, the percentages are much, much higher among the mentally ill and among the homeless. At least 80% of people with schizophrenia smoke—probably because of neurological changes related to their disease—and smoking rates are also very high among those who suffer from other psychiatric disorders. In fact, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that people with serious mental illnesses consume nearly half of all the cigarettes sold in America. Smoking is also very common among the homeless, 60-75% of whom smoke. This is probably at least partly due to the fact that many of them are also mentally ill. What all this means is that when we see someone smoking on a street corner or in a park, there is a very good chance that person is

mentally ill and has nowhere else to go. Nobody likes being exposed to second-hand smoke, even when it is highly diluted by outside air.

Nobody likes looking at discarded cigarette butts. But, these are occasional and minor annoyances compared to what the mentally ill and the homeless have to endure all day every day. It would be grossly unfair and discriminatory for us to persecute these unfortunate people simply to make our already comfortable lives just a little bit better.

Someday, perhaps, we will be able to do something to significantly improve the lives of the mentally ill and the homeless. In the meantime, let's at least refrain from making their lives worse. Durham is a wonderfully tolerant community. Surely we can find it in our hearts to tolerate a bit of smoking in outdoor public places for the sake of those who are already carrying such a heavy burden of affliction. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jon Guze

2507 Wrightwood Ave.
Durham, NC 27705
919-490-6086

Cc: Ms. Nancye Bryan, President, National Alliance on Mental Illness,
Durham
Mr. Patrice Nelson, Executive Director, Urban Ministries of Durham
Dr. Ernie Mill, CEO, Durham Rescue Mission
Mr. Lowell Siler, County Attorney, County of Durham

6/1/11-Rah Bickley [rahbickley@mac.com]

Dear all,

I hope the county will ban smoking in public places. I have a four year old and I don't want him breathing in second-hand smoke on playgrounds. I don't even want him to see people smoking. Smokers should be able to smoke on their own time or their own property, but not on the public's property.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sarah ("Rah") Bickley
12 Streamview Ct., Durham NC 27713

Rah Bickley

6/1/11-Laurie Snyder [laurie.snyder@duke.edu]

As a physician and a mother, I am completely in support of a smoking ban in public spaces-athletic fields, playgrounds, outside of hospital grounds, etc.

We need to keep our kids safe and protect the health of our community.

thank you,
Laurie Snyder

5/31/11-holly madariaga [holly.madariaga@gmail.com]

While I'm not opposed to shutting smokers totally out of parks, I think it's a fantastic idea to ban smoking and butts directly IN the playground areas. We have 3 children ages 4, 2 and 1, and the younger kids always want to pick the butts up! What a great law!

Holly Madariaga
Durham, NC

5/31/11-Katharine Kollins [kwkollins@gmail.com]

I would like to express an opinion strongly IN FAVOR of the proposed smoking ban. I think it is critical that all public places be free of smoke not only for children, but adults as well. No one should be forced to breathe carcinogens just because they take public transportation, want to play at a playground, or are otherwise utilizing Durham city and county services. I urge you strongly to set a good example for our children, our State and the Country that we recognize smoking is detrimental to everyone's health and no one should be forced to suffer the consequences of others' irresponsible actions.

Thank you,
Katharine Kollins
2722 Spencer St.
Durham 27705

5/24/11-Karen Crumbliss [kcrumbliss@me.com]

Dear Gayle,

I heartily support your efforts to protect our health and curb second-hand smoke in public places. Your advocacy is important for all of us. Thank you very much!

Thanks, Karen

(Karen Crumbliss)

5/24/11-ata@duke.edu

I support any and all efforts to ban smoking in public places, indoors and out.

Arthur T. Alt
3 Scott Place
27705

5/24/11-Deborah Pilkington [dpilkington@nc.rr.com]

I am writing to express my complete support in this matter. As you may know, NYC has just enacted similar:

New York City outdoor smoking ban effective as of Monday.

The CBS Evening News (5/22, story 9, 2:00, Mitchell) reported, "Smokers considering a visit to New York City should consider themselves warned. The city that has already extinguished most indoor smoking is taking aim now at the great outdoors." CBS (Dow) explained, "New York City is now taking the war against tobacco a step further with a new law that goes into effect tomorrow banning smoking outdoors at beaches, boardwalks, parks, and pedestrian plazas. . . New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, a former smoker, pushed for the law that aims to drastically reduce if not eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke."

I'm a former 17-year pack-a-day smoker and I know how hard it is to quit. I also volunteer for Keep Durham Beautiful and am disgusted by the seemingly never-ending cigarette butts on the sides of the road. I would love to see Durham take this step for both the health of its citizens and the environment.

Deborah Pilkington
Durham, NC

5/24/11-Judith Kelley [Judith.Kelley@duke.edu]

Greetings,

Every year 400,000 US citizens die pre-maturely from smoking or second hard smoke. 17% of high school kids smoke, and 7 percent of middle school kids. Half these kids will die from smoking. Lets send a message to improve health by enacting the smoking ban in public places!
Judith

Judith Kelley
Associate Professor of Public Policy and Political Science
Duke Sanford School of Public Policy

5/23/11-Elisabeth Jezierski [shemeanwell@gmail.com]

Durham, NC 27701

Dear Ms Harris:

I and members of three generations of my family strongly support the proposed smoking ban in all public spaces, be they indoors or outdoors.

We all know how even secondary smoke is most deleterious to health. For children to see adults smoking on a playground or in a sports arena sets a terrible example. They can get "hooked" for life!

Smoking signifies high costs for our health services, and painful death for our fellow Durhamites by causing avoidable cancers. Smoking also negatively affects family budgets when it's a question of good nutrition vs cigarettes..

Cigarette butts on sidewalks and trails are visually offensive. Besides, birds can ingest them and choke on them.

There is, unfortunately, enough industrial pollution in the air we breathe. We hardly need smoke as a further contaminant.

Sincerely ,

Elisabeth Jeziarski
1101 Norwood Ave
Durham NC 27707

N.B.

I am speaking out as the daughter of a man who got very ill as a result of nicotine poisoning, and of a mother who died of cancer as a result of having smoked as a young woman. My husband's secondary smoke caused me a tumor, necessitating the removal of a third of my right lung.

5/23/11-Deborah Pilkington [dpilkington@nc.rr.com]

I was astounded when I saw the proposed rule in the paper. I never thought this would make it to North Carolina!

I would love for there to be a ban. I have two stakes in this. First, I am a local family physicians and spend a lot of my day, everyday, seeing and talking to people about the consequences of smoking.

I also volunteer for Keep Durham Beautiful and do neighborhood cleanup where I live. I literally cannot go more than 3 or 4 feet on Cornwallis Road without seeing a cigarette butt, and this is the section of Cornwallis in the Duke Forest Neighborhood.

It is such a difficult habit to overcome and anything we can do to encourage people to quit will be help. Every little disincentive, including raising the cost, or making it more difficult to find places to light up, will help a small percentage of people reach that critical point where they become ready to take the plunge.

There will always be people who talk about "their right" to smoke, but I have a right to clean air and to not have to step on butts wherever I go.

Please let me know what I can do to help push this forward!

Lisa Nadler, MD
2800 DeKalb Street, 27705
919-475-1763

5/23/11-Deborah Marion [dmarion@nc.rr.com]

To Whom It May Concern,

I support the ban on public smoking that is under consideration.

Thank you,

Deborah Marion, M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
2730 Montgomery Street
Durham NC 27705
9194038040

5/23/11-Elisabeth Jezierski [shemeanswell@gmail.com]

Durham County Board of Health
Gayle Harris
Director
Durham County Health Department
414 E Main St
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Ms Harris:

I and members of three generations of my family strongly support the proposed smoking ban in all public spaces, be they indoor or outdoor.

We all know how even secondary smoke is most deleterious to health. For children to see adults smoking on a playground or a sports arena sets a terrible example. They can get "hooked" for life! Smoking represents high costs to our health services, causing avoidable cancers. It also negatively affects family budgets when it's a question of healthy food vs a pack of cigarettes.. Cigarette butts on sidewalks and trails are visually offensive. Besides, birds can ingest them and choke on them.

There is, unfortunately, enough industrial pollution in the air we breathe. We hardly need smoke as a further contaminant.

Sincerely ,

Elisabeth Jezierski
1101 Norwood Ave
Durham NC 27707

N.B.

I am speaking out as the daughter of a man who got very ill as a result of nicotine poisoning, and of a mother who died of cancer as a result of having smoked as a young woman. My husband's secondary smoke caused a tumor, necessitating the removal of a third of my right lung.

5/22/11-derek_frontier [derek.le@frontier.com]

Yes, I fully support the proposed smoking rule. Please implement it.

Furthermore, please address the serious health hazards posed by burning wood in fireplaces, woodstoves, and the new outdoor fire grills.

Dioxins and other toxins are in the smoke so neighbors are poisoning neighbors. Please ban smoke of all kinds.

Thanks,
Derek Leadbetter

5/18/11-Bob Conroy [conroybob@frontier.com]

To: Gayle Harris , Director:

We totally support the proposed smoking rule and fervently hope the County Commissioners will adopt it at their first opportunity. The proposed rule is the best local news since the billboard ordinance change was defeated.

As a former smoker I am well aware that most smokers are so addicted they are oblivious to their dangerous and rude behavior. Only a ban backed by law will make a dent in the public smoking problem. We especially like the sidewalk ban. For some reason smokers congregate as close as possible to doorways to non-smoking areas thereby forcing the rest of us to go through their smoke to enter, say, a restaurant.

Then they litter public areas with their leftovers.

Question: will the rule ban smoking in outdoor restaurants? One of the unintended consequences of the indoor restaurant smoking ban has been that the pleasant outdoor areas are now ruined by smokers. I am thinking particularly of the outdoor restaurant areas at Brightleaf Square and around The Federal on Main Street.

The May 17 Herald Sun editorial ("Ban Smoking? Absolutely" was 100% dead on.

When asked "mind if I smoke?" Durham's answer should be "YES!"

Thanks,
Bob & Liz Conroy
919-493-1238
919-419-6878 (fax)
conroybob@frontier.com
2811 Welcome Drive
Durham, NC 27705-5515

5/17/11-Donald Ball [donald.ball@gmail.com]

I'm a Durham resident and support the proposed ban on smoking outdoors in public spaces.

-- donald

5/17/11-Thomas Burke, Ph.D. [Thomas.Burke@duke.edu]

I would like to go on record as supporting the proposed 'Durham County Smoke Free Rule'.

I choose to live my life healthy, and I resent breathing second-hand smoke from people who decide to light up while in public spaces. I have a right to commute, exercise, recreate, and simply exist in Durham's public places without being subjected to poisons and pollution produced by smokers.

Sincerely,
Tom Burke

Thomas Burke, Ph.D.
Institute for Genome Sciences & Policy
Duke University
919.668.3576

5/17/11-Ricardo Correa [ricardotcorrea@gmail.com]

THIS IS A GREAT IDEA! Especially at the Downtown bus stop.

Thanks

--

Shalom,

Pastor R. Correa

5-17-11-John Staddon [jers@duke.edu]

The following is adapted from my in-press book UNLUCKY STRIKE: How Weak Science, Bad Law, Fear and Money have left Smokers out in the Cold. My research has led me to conclude that most restrictions on smoking are both unjust and unjustifiable. There is no medical basis for restrictions on outdoor smoking and some public places should be available for smokers to smoke indoors.

Now everyone hates smoking, but 50 years ago...not so much. Everybody smoked. Back another 50 years, smokers were hated again – cigarettes were illegal in ten states in 1909. Smoking has been controversial ever since tobacco came to Europe in the sixteenth century. It has always been a ready source of revenue; it has also been a source of health problems, real and imagined. The mixture of pleasure, money and health risk means that smoking is rarely treated in a dispassionate manner by politicians, health professionals or the public. This heady stew reached another boiling point in the last decade or two with expansive anti-smoking legislation now almost universal in the developed world. The misinformation about and unreasoning hostility directed at smoking and smokers – and the sight of smokers, usually poor, puffing desperately outside in winter weather – prompted me to write this book.

The dominant attitude to smoking makes no sense. In addition to an instinctive aversion displayed by a few – about as rational as some people’s hatred of cats – the general animus encourages tendentious science, perverts law and tempts politicians into dubious practices. When large amounts of money can be made at their expense, the plight of smokers becomes dire.

I look at three main issues in this book. The first is, what *should* we want for health? Is longevity enough? Is a long life for everyone an absolute good? How about productivity – how much should we value the productive fraction of a citizen’s life? Evolutionary biology doesn’t answer these questions, but it should make us skeptical of simple answers to them. And how about the ‘joy of smoking,’ smokers’ own ‘pursuit of happiness,’ where does that fit into public policy? The second question is simply factual: how dangerous is smoking, really? Is it dangerous to others – the problem of secondhand smoke? Well smoking is risky for the smoker, but less risky than most people now believe. It is probably not dangerous to other people. The third issue is cost: Smoking-related illnesses are costly and painful, no doubt. But we all get sick and die; dying is rarely pleasant; and the fact is that smokers tend to die a bit more efficiently than the rest of us. They cost society *less* not more than nonsmokers. Taken together, these facts should make society much more sympathetic to smoking than they are. But perverse incentives in the political and legal systems have pushed policy in the opposite direction.

So my conclusion is this: Durham, indeed the US itself, was founded on tobacco and even if we are not proud of that, we should at least leave smokers alone as much as possible. Secondhand smoke has NOT been shown to pose any health threat, but many non-smokers don’t like it. It would be nice to provide a few separate smoking places in bus stations and the like so smokers don’t get pneumonia puffing away on their over-taxed coffin nails outside. But there is absolutely no scientific basis for restricting smoking outdoors.

John Staddon is James B. Duke Professor of Psychology, and Professor of Biology and Neurobiology, Emeritus, at Duke University.

--
J. E. R. Staddon
Faculty Secretary
James B. Duke Professor of Psychology,
Professor of Biology and Neurobiology Emeritus
Dept. of Psychology and Neuroscience, Duke University
Ph. 919-493-4398

<http://fds.duke.edu/db/aas/pn/faculty/staddon>
<http://dukespace.lib.duke.edu/dspace/handle/10161/2878>

5-16-11-Debby Bishop [debbybishop@earthlink.net]

I believe that this legislation would be good. I frequently take children to park play areas and have to keep after them not to touch discarded cigarette butts. Beyond health considerations, the litter created is unpleasant, and the city and county should not have to pay to pick it up.

Waiting for a bus next to someone who is smoking is not healthy.

Sincerely,

Deborah Bishop
3521 Manford Drive
Durham, NC 27707

5/16/11-luther mason [lilluke0@yahoo.com]

Dear Director G. Harris,

I had a baby sister who passed away recently who didn't smoke in her 59 years of lung cancer I can't understand that because she was a minister and didn't allow smoking in her presence!

As a concerned citizen I understand the preventive methods to avoid the harmful affect by secondhand smoking, but to put outdoors smoking into the mix I can't agree on that notion. Yes, I understand if I am in close proximity with anyone in an enclosed or semi-enclosed area like some bus stops the risk is there.

Then you mention State and County owned property sidewalks abutting to buildings and grounds which is right, but when you said all of state and county owned sidewalks that's all over the city everywhere. This part of your rule needs a little refining I would think? I'm on your side but these rules are in a young stage they will need more screening.

Respectfully,
Concerned Citizen
Luther

Mr. Luther N. Mason

5/15/11-Marge Nordstrom [mnordstrom@nc.rr.com]

I support the proposed rule to ban smoking in public places. Not only is the relationship between smoking and disease for smokers overwhelming, second hand smoke is known to cause disease and premature death. I believe we should not be doing anything that promotes ease of smoking

5/13/2011-Tucker, Randy

I strongly support the proposed Rule banning Smoking in public places. As a former smoker who struggled for years to quit, any rule prohibiting the pollution of our public areas would be beneficial. I want to be able to enjoy fresh air without having to breathe toxic chemicals.

Second hand smoke is a public health issue and needs to be addressed immediately. Someone who smokes should not be allowed to pollute the air of our public spaces any more than we would allow someone to litter our parks. (Stop at any street corner in our city and count the number of cigarette butts littering the environment).

Thanks,

Randy

William R. "Randy" Tucker, CSAC

STARR Program Supervisor

Criminal Justice Resource Center

Durham County Detention Facility

219 South Mangum Street

Durham, NC 27701

(919) 560-0972

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† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Fighting for Air

Dennis C. Alexander
Regional Executive Director

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www.lungnorthcarolina.org

Durham County Board of Health
Attn: Gayle Harris
Director, Durham County Health Department
414 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701

Wednesday, June 15th, 2011

Dear Durham County Board of Health:

Subject: Smoking Rule

On behalf of the American Lung Association in North Carolina, we'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the increased regulation of smoking in Durham County and the City of Durham. The proposed regulation expands upon the current state law and local regulations which currently prohibit smoking in restaurants, bars, government buildings, schools, healthcare facilities and their grounds, and hospitals and their grounds. While it is evident that both key decision makers and residents value public health, further protection from secondhand smoke is needed to truly protect citizens in the area.

- I. Secondhand smoke kills.** Every year, lung cancer and heart disease attributable to secondhand smoke exposure kills nearly 50,000 Americans.¹
- II. According to the Surgeon General, there is no safe level of secondhand smoke.** Over 4,000 substances, several of which are known carcinogens, have been found in exhaled cigarette smoke. Exposure to these substances can trigger asthma attacks or increase their severity, and children are particularly sensitive to its effects. Additionally, exposure to secondhand smoke has an immediate adverse impact on the cardiovascular system, damaging blood vessels, making blood more likely to clot and increasing risks for heart attack and stroke.²
- III. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that implementing smoke-free laws is associated with reductions in hospital heart attack admissions.** The CDC notes that, "smoke-free laws

¹ CDC, "Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses -- United States 2000-2004," *MMWR* 57(45), November 14, 2008

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5745a3.htm>. See also, California EPA, *Proposed Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant*, June 24, 2005.

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking Attributable Disease.: *A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010.

likely reduce heart attack hospitalizations both by reducing secondhand smoke exposure among nonsmokers and by reducing smoking, with the first factor making the larger contribution.”¹

The American Lung Association fully supports the Durham County Board of Health Rule regulating smoking on Durham County and the City of Durham grounds including playgrounds, athletic fields, bus stops, transportation centers, and sidewalks abutting hospital grounds. This is a vital next step in ensuring that residents are protected from the severe harm that can accompany exposure to secondhand smoke and will make Durham a lead example for the entire state.

If there is any further support we can provide as you come to your final decision, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Many thanks,



Dennis Alexander
Regional Executive Director
American Lung Association in North Carolina
dalexander@lungusa.org

¹ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, —Reduced Hospitalizations for Acute Myocardial Infarction After Implementation of a Smoke-Free Ordinance—City of Pueblo, Colorado, 2002–2006, || *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* 57 (51), January 2, 2009. http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/mmwr/byyear/2009/mm5751a1/highlights.htm.

P.O. BOX 11296
DURHAM, NC 27703
NOV. 4 - 2010

MR. PRESIDENT, "SIR"

I PRAYED BEFORE I WRITE THIS LETTER, BECAUSE I WANTED IT TO REACH YOUR HANDS.

I'VE BEEN TRYING OVER (3) YEARS TO EDUCATE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON HOW WE ARE ALLOWING "PARENTS AND OTHERS", TO DO HARM, SERIOUS HARM TO OUR CHILDREN -

I ASKED MR. LARRY KING, MR. JACK CAFFERTY, MR. WOLF BLITZER, MR. KONDOLBY, MR. ANDERSON COOPER, DR. SANJAY GUPTA, EVEN THE SURGEON GENERAL AND AT LAST, FOX NEWS

WOULD THEY HAVE ON THEIR PROGRAMS THE "PSYCHOLOGISTS, THE "PSYCHIATRISTS, AND THE "BEHAVIORISTS, TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HOW SECOND HAND SMOKE "AFFECT" OUR CHILDREN DEVELOP "PHYSICALLY, INTELLECTUALLY, AND "EMOTIONALLY. AND HOW THE "BEHAVIORISTS" DESCRIBE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN WHO ARE "EXPOSED" TO SECOND HAND SMOKE.

I'VE SENT COPIES TO "SENATORS" AND "LAWMAKERS, ASKING THEM TO "ACT" NOW, AND PASS LAWS THAT WOULD "OUTLAW" A SMOKER

(2)

TO SMOKE WITH A CHILD IN THE AUTOMOBILE WITH THE SMOKER ~~ILLUSTRATION~~ PERIOD!!!

I FEEL THAT A ~~THE~~ GREAT INJUSTICE ARE BEING DONE TO OUR CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO ONE TO ~~THE~~ SPEAK-OUT FOR THEM.

WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE CHILDREN THAT GOES THROUGH THIS ~~THE~~ TORTURE DAILY, TEARS FILL MY EYES, AND I'M DEEPLY SADDEN.

ONE OF THE ~~THE~~ GREATEST GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN TO US, IS OUR CHILDREN. YET, WE ALLOW THEM TO BE HARM IN THIS MANNER.

HOW LONG MUST OUR CHILDREN SUFFER I ASK? A VOICE WITHIN SAYS, "NOT LONG."

THESE "GREAT MEN OF INTEGRITY AT CNN AND FOX NEWS" REFUSE TO TALK ABOUT OUR CHILDREN HEALTH, BUT TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE.

THEY "FEAR" WHAT THE "PSYCHOLOGISTS, THE "PSYCHIATRISTS" AND THE "BEHAVIORISTS" WILL TELL THEM, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. IT WILL BLOW THEIR MINDS. MR PRESIDENT. BELIEVE ME, "SIR"

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU, "SIR". GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

"A SERVANT:
Dinnie Lee Everett

JONATHAN DAVID GUZE
2507 WRIGHTWOOD AVENUE
DURHAM, NC 27705
PHONE: 919-490-6086 FAX: 919-403-8582
email: jonguze@mindspring.com

June 2, 2011

Ms. Gayle Harris, Director
Durham County Board of Health,
414 East Main Street
Durham, NC 27701

Re: Smoking Rule

Dear Ms. Harris:

I would like to record my opposition to the proposed rule banning smoking in outdoor public places in Durham. Despite its good intentions, the effect of such a ban would be to cruelly victimize the weakest and most afflicted members of our community and make their lives even worse than they already are.

Because smoking is so dirty and unhealthy, those of us who don't smoke often find it hard to sympathize with those who do. We tend to feel that, if smokers are too pig-headed or weak-willed to quit, they should at least do their smoking in private where it won't bother the rest of us. What we may not realize, however, is that many smokers can neither quit nor do their smoking in private because they are mentally ill, or homeless, or both.

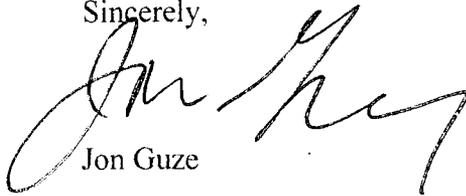
Only a little more than 20% of the general population smokes; however, the percentages are much, much higher among the mentally ill and among the homeless. At least 80% of people with schizophrenia smoke—probably because of neurological changes related to their disease—and smoking rates are also very high among those who suffer from other psychiatric disorders. In fact, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that people with serious mental illnesses consume nearly half of all the cigarettes sold in America. Smoking is also very common among the homeless, 60-75% of whom smoke. This is probably at least partly due to the fact that many of them are also mentally ill. What all this means is that when we see someone smoking on a street corner or in a park, there is a very good chance that person is mentally ill and has nowhere else to go. Nobody likes being exposed to second-hand smoke, even when it is highly diluted by outside air. Nobody likes looking at discarded cigarette butts. But, these are occasional and minor annoyances compared to what the mentally ill and the homeless have to endure all day every day. It would be grossly unfair and discriminatory for us to persecute these unfortunate people simply to make our already comfortable lives just a little bit better.

Someday, perhaps, we will be able to do something to significantly improve the lives of the mentally ill and the homeless. In the meantime, let's at least refrain from making their lives worse. Durham is a wonderfully tolerant community. Surely we can find it in our hearts to

Ms. Harris
Re: Smoking Rule
June 2, 2011
Page 2 of 2

tolerate a bit of smoking in outdoor public places for the sake of those who are already carrying such a heavy burden of affliction. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Guze". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jon Guze

Cc: Ms. Nancye Bryan, President, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Durham
Mr. Patrice Nelson, Executive Director, Urban Ministries of Durham
Dr. Ernie Mill, CEO, Durham Rescue Mission
Mr. Lowell Siler, County Attorney, County of Durham

Durham County Board of Health
Ms. Gayle Harris, Director
Durham, NC
May 15, 2011
Ref: Smoking Rule

Dear Ms. Harris:

At first I read the article in the Herald-Sun with some humor with regards to banning smoking in all public places on Durham City and County property. Then I began to get angry. I smoke and my taxes support all those public places, including parks systems, bus stops, any sidewalk, etc. Tobacco built this city and the unreasonable taxes I pay on cigarettes continue to feed the system. The property taxes I pay continue to support the outrageous misuse of city and county funds for projects that benefit only a few. Finally I am sick of folks trying to run my life. If I want to know what's good for my health, I'll ask a doctor, not a bunch of clerks in city hall. STAY OUT OF MY LIFE. By the continued enactment of stupid laws, you infringe on my rights. Who is going to enforce these rules of where a person can smoke? Am I going to be arrested every time I light up?

Why not just shoot all smokers on sight. And don't stop there—have the police plug fat people or ignorant people (the city, county is full of them—be hard to miss), or coffee drinkers, or folks having a burger and a beer since both are so bad for a person. Whoever thought up this "rule" is a jackass, and I would be glad to tell him to his face. This is America, the country I fought for, not Pakistan or Syria, and I'll be damn if you are going to determine how I live. I and thousands of others have earned their rights, paid their taxes, obeyed the law, but enough is enough. City, county and state governments were activated to do as a community what individuals could not—build roads, hospitals, things that benefited all citizens. You have progressed to the point that is no longer enough and you want to control folks lives and determine what is good for them based on YOUR opinion. I don't want your opinion, I don't need your rules, so you go hug all the trees you want and stay the hell away from me.

Dan Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dan Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Linda Boten
(919) 471-3151

Ms. Boten called in on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 to express her opposition to the proposed smoking rule. She said "Smokers have designated smoking areas and nonsmokers can stay away from those designated smoking areas". Ms. Boten said she has been a resident of Durham County since 1969.

Bull City Rising

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May 17, 2011

County health department proposes outdoor smoking restrictions; some parks, transit stops, hospital areas proposed for bans

An email release from the Durham County Health Department last week noted in an understated way that the department was inviting public comment on a proposed rule that would ban smoking in a range of public spaces.

There's nothing understated about the proposal itself, however, which would ban smoking in some public parks, akin to a recent municipal move in Raleigh. But would go significantly further, it seems, to address tobacco use in a range of non-park public spaces.

Certain parks, all city/county owned property, outdoor bus stops, and sidewalks outside hospitals and public spaces would go smokefree if the County Commissioners approve the proposal.

Parks per se wouldn't be included in the ban, but a park with playground equipment would see the "recreation area" and a 150' swath around it banned from smoking; so would City athletic fields.

All other unenclosed areas owned by the City and County would ban smoking, as would all enclosed and unenclosed bus stops; for unenclosed, defined as the area from the bus stop sign to the end of the bus' length.

Hospital grounds would also be off-limits for smoking, something that Duke-operated hospitals at least already enforce -- but significantly, sidewalks abutting hospitals, or those bordering City/County property for that matter, would also go smoke-free.

The downtown transit station, which has a tendency to be seemingly surrounded in a smoky haze even when buses aren't making their half-hourly discharge, would be expressly noted as a non-smoking zone, too.

No criminal penalties would exist for violations, though those refusing to cease smoking could see a visit from a sheriff deputy or Durham Police for a \$50 fine.

From a pure visibility and en-masse perspective, the transit station and the area outside Duke's hospital -- the latter of which has attracted big crowds since the hospital went smokefree on its grounds a couple of years back -- would seem to be the most noteworthy places.

The changes are possible thanks to modifications in state law that took place when indoor smoking in restaurants and most other venues not named "Whiskey" went into effect a couple of years back. Previously, state law banned municipalities from enacting or enforcing their own rules on tobacco use.

If adopted, this would certainly mark another evolutionary change for a city whose prime moniker, the "Bull City," is ultimately a reference to one of the first mass-popular trademarks for Bull Durham tobacco.

To say nothing of a city where the sides of police cars and other municipal vehicles used to have an image of the tobacco leaf.

Certainly for a community that re-stylized itself as the City of Medicine, of course, one could say the conflict in branding is less obvious -- though given that I write these words before I step outside to walk to my office in what

used to be the American Tobacco Company factory, the vestiges of Durham's tobacconist history will live in edifices long after the manufacturing history fades.

And maybe those names will outlast some of the visible outdoor use of the namesake product, if county health officials have their way.

(Read more **in the main story** over at the Herald-Sun.)

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Comments



But what about all the our parking attendants? The ALL smoke!

Posted by: Tommy | [May 17, 2011 at 08:57 AM](#)

Duke does not enforce the smoking ban. I work in Duke South and see people daily smoking right outside the main entrance, right next to the signs, no less. Smokers are like water, they will find a spot to settle and gather.

Posted by: Hammer | [May 17, 2011 at 09:44 AM](#)



Give them (smokers) a designated smoking area with an enclosed container and filter . It seems to help a bunch at the airports I've visited.

Posted by: [Joshua Adams](#) | [May 17, 2011 at 01:58 PM](#)

I agree with Josh, put them in a cage with it's own atmospheric conditions.

Posted by: [Hammer](#) | [May 17, 2011 at 03:31 PM](#)

I think the smokers' gathering place by the bus stop in front of Duke Hospital North is a total embarrassment for Duke and for Durham. I support any move that would move the smoking area someplace less conspicuous and more contained! Also, that particular gathering area makes it nearly impossible to get back and forth between the VAMC and Duke North via the outdoor route without exposure to second hand smoke. I used to call it the gauntlet when I worked over there...

Obviously this proposal would impact many more places in Durham than just the Erwin Road bus stop. Making playgrounds, public properties, hospitals, bus stops, and recreational areas smoke-free seems like a good step forward for the general health of Durham. I like it.

Posted by: [Emily](#) | [May 17, 2011 at 03:33 PM](#)

Agreed Emily, that is pretty disgusting. The area in the back of Duke South is equally bad...littered with butts everywhere. Someday that spot is going to go up in flames since there is a blanket of dry pine needles there. The front of Duke South is only used as an ashtray by visitors, and I am loathe to remind them that it is a non-smoking area since they are there to see patients (probably).

Posted by: [Hammer](#) | [May 17, 2011 at 04:04 PM](#)

@Emily....I feel sorry for the people that actually need that shelter to catch a bus.

Posted by: [Hammer](#) | [May 17, 2011 at 04:05 PM](#)

Make sure your support is heard:

"Persons wishing to comment on the proposed Health Department Rule should submit their written comments to the Durham County Board of Health, Attn: Gayle Harris, Director, at the above address or via email at health@durhamcountync.gov. Please reference the "Smoking Rule" in the title of all responses to this request."

Posted by: (non) Smoking Man | [May 17, 2011 at 05:20 PM](#)

Seems like this is one of the few things society feels we can be disdainfully judgmental (and litigious) about... I get banning smoking from buildings. But in parks and on streets? I didn't think we'd follow Raleigh down this road to idiocy. A little liberty people... if it bothers you, walk upwind.

I've never smoked a cigarette of any kind, and I support taxing the crap out of them, but no need to ostracize people. I'll do what I can to keep this BS legislation from passing.

Posted by: [Paul McCall](#) | [May 17, 2011 at 11:00 PM](#)



Paul, don't you think the public has the right to regulate carcinogenic pollutant emissions in public spaces?

Posted by: dob | [May 17, 2011 at 11:57 PM](#)

I do, but let's start with those that actually matter. Smoking does not in the grand scheme of things, and pursuit of smokers has turned into a witch hunt.

It's not hard to divert oneself a few feet out of the line of smoke. Literally less than 10 feet. Most smokers hate their habit and are courteous and aware of the fact that smoke is not enjoyed by most.

The one area where I do have an issue with in this debate is the public healthcare costs of smokers. But that really is unrelated.

Posted by: Paul McCall | [May 18, 2011 at 12:49 AM](#)

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