

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**May 24, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber – City Hall**

A Council work session was held to discuss prohibiting smoking in casino gaming areas.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Madison Davis, PJ Kovac, Russell Moore, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach.

Bryan Carter, City Manager; Chris Connally, Police Chief; Debra Bradley, Health Director; Tom Mahoney, Interim Administrative Services Director; Jason Soper, Interim City Attorney; Mary Robertson, Asst. to the City Manager/Communications & Public Relation Manager; Ed Schilling, Multimedia Planner; Kitty Karr, Accountant; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Bryan Carter, City Manager, gave a brief history on the smoking ban.

Mary Attebury, 5605 Longview Drive, gave a power point presentation on "Smoke-free Air" (copy attached) and distributed a handout entitled "The Risks of Secondhand Smoke in Casinos."

Jamie Baker, 11437 Hillview, Savannah, Missouri, spoke about the decision to exclude the casino when the issue went to the voters in 2014.

Mike Tamburelli, General Manager of St. Jo Frontier Casino, said if smoking is banned on the casino floor they will be at a competitive disadvantage since White Cloud and Kansas City casinos allow smoking. They have provided a nonsmoking area on the second floor of the casino with about 42 slot machines; not a lot of people use them.

Maura Gray, 2166 Lawrence St., St. Louis, Missouri, American Heart Association representative, provided some heart related facts on secondhand smoking.

Traci Kennedy, 837 26th St., West Des Moines, Iowa, with Americans for Nonsmokers Rights, gave some background on the organization. She said wearing masks doesn't protect employees from secondhand smoke. This is a unique opportunity to go back and get it right; everyone deserves to be protected against secondhand smoke no matter where they work in St. Joseph.

Councilmember PJ Kovac favored putting the issue on the ballot. Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Russell Moore, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach did not want to put the issue on the ballot. Mayor McMurray and Councilmember Madison Davis want to see the ballot language before deciding.

Councilmember Kovac said he will not pursue it with five members against it.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.





# Smoke-free Air

PROTECTING THE CITIZENS OF ST. JOE FROM THE SECONDHAND EXPOSURE TO TOBACCO SMOKE AND E-CIGARETTE AEROSOL.

## What is Secondhand Smoke?

- A mixture of smoke from burning cigarettes or other combustible products, and exhaled smoke in the air.
- Contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including more than 70 that can cause cancer, and other harmful substances.
- Classified as a cancer-causing agent by the Environmental Protection Agency.



# Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke



Heart  
Disease



Lung  
Cancer



Stroke



Nasal  
Irritation



Low Birth  
Weight



Death

# Importance of Smoke-free Air

- Protections from secondhand smoke is a health equity and social justice issue – all people deserve the same protections
- Casino employees are one of the most exposed workforce to secondhand smoke.
- There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke
- Smoke-free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace

## Slide 4

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**EK2**

I think we might want to flesh out the second bullet more. Maybe we need a whole separate slide. We could include facts like those in the factsheet I attached to the email about nicotine in casinos. I think we should say employees and patrons as well.

Emily Kalmer, 5/21/2021

# Health and Economic Benefits


- Reduced exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosols
- Improved indoor air quality
- Improved respiratory health
- Reduced exposure to cancer-causing chemicals
- Reduced hospitalizations due to heart disease, stroke, and respiratory diseases
- Increased quit attempts and reduced smoking among smokers
- Smoke-free policies do not harm the hospitality industry and do not reduce bar sales or employers
- Money saved through:
  - Reduced fire risk
  - Reduced damage to property and furnishings
  - Reduced cleaning and maintenance costs
  - Reduced insurance costs





More than **800**  
Smoke-free  
casinos prior to  
COVID 19.

More than **200**  
casinos have  
reopened Smoke-  
free since. **EK1**



# CASINOS GOING SMOKEFREE MATTERS

Every worker deserves to breathe smokefree air. Casino, bar, restaurant workers are more exposed to toxic secondhand smoke in their jobsite compared to other segments of the U

### The Surgeon General Concluded:

- There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke
- Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke
- Heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems alone cannot eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke
- 100% smokefree workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace

### Secondhand Smoke Can Cause:

Exposure to secondhand smoke causes an estimated 41,000 deaths from lung cancer and heart disease among adults each year in the United States.

- Heart Disease • Lung Cancer • Respiratory Disease
- Adverse Effects on the Health of Infants and Children

### Smoke-free Policies:

• Improve Air Quality	• Reduce Secondhand Smoke Exposure
• Improve Health	• Reduce Smoking
• Receive Public Support	• Result in High Levels of Compliance

**SNTEPP** #BreathingCleanAirIsHozhó  
#EveryBreathIsSacred #AirIsLife

**AIR IS LIFE**  
Nídh'ér bí' íná até



**Slide 6**

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**EK1** Since when? The beginning of the pandemic?  
Emily Kalmer, 5/21/2021

ONE  
OF  
THE  
MOST  
IMPORTANT

# AMENITIES

NIGHTLIFE	DINING
ENTERTAINMENT	GAMING

FOR  
MILLENNIALS  
IS  
A  
SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT.



Take Action



**OPEN**

**Smokefree air is good for health and good for business.**

Ensuring a safe environment will be part of the new normal for business. Reopening smokefree will reassure your guests and employees that their health is your top priority.

Find out how you can seamlessly initiate and implement a smokefree policy at your gaming venue.

We're here to help businesses transition for the health of customers, and the health of all who work in gaming.

[smokefreecasinos.org](http://smokefreecasinos.org)

LOVE TO PLAY. LOVE TO BREATHE.

A logo for "Breathe Easy with Smokefree Casinos" featuring a yellow starburst above the text "Breathe Easy" in a script font, "with SMOKEFREE" in a smaller sans-serif font, and "CASINOS" in a larger sans-serif font, all enclosed in a yellow outline of a casino slot machine.

# The Risks of Secondhand Smoke in Casinos



Secondhand smoke (SHS) is an occupational hazard for many casino workers- from dealers to security. Job-related exposure to SHS is a significant, but entirely preventable, cause of premature death among U.S. workers.<sup>i, ii, iii</sup> While 25 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have 100 percent smoke-free laws covering all workplaces, restaurants, and bars, only 21 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands require state-regulated gaming facilities to be 100 percent smoke-free.<sup>iv</sup> ACS CAN urges policymakers and community leaders to pass laws and policies that make all gaming facilities 100 percent smoke-free.

Only 21 states require state-regulated gaming facilities to be 100 percent smoke-free.

## Secondhand Smoke: Risking Workers' Health

Casino workers are at higher risk for SHS-related illness than other workers:

- The National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) and the US Surgeon General found that occupational exposure to SHS increases workers' risk of lung cancer and other diseases.<sup>v, vi, vii</sup>
- Nicotine concentrations in the air in casinos, bars, billiard halls, bowling alleys, and bingo parlors were found to be 2.4-18.5 times higher than in offices or residences, and 1.5-11.7 times higher than in restaurants.<sup>viii</sup> Another study found that smoke particles were approximately 12 times greater inside casinos than outside.<sup>ix</sup>
- A study examining casino dealers' occupational exposure to SHS in three casinos found that they were exposed to nicotine and a number of toxins – including carcinogens<sup>x</sup> benzene, naphthalene, formaldehyde, and acetaldehyde.<sup>xi</sup>
- Patrons were also found to have significantly elevated levels of a tobacco-specific lung carcinogen after a four-hour visit to a casino that allowed smoking.<sup>xii</sup>
- SHS and unsafe levels of smoke-related pollutants have been found throughout the entire casino gaming area, suggesting that casino patrons as well as other casino employees (e.g. servers, cashiers, security personnel) may incur the same level of SHS exposure as dealers and supervisors.<sup>xiv</sup> A study examining levels of SHS in 21 Nevada casinos with non-smoking restaurants adjacent to gaming areas where smoking was allowed found that the non-smoking areas still had an average of 60 percent of the amount of SHS as the areas where smoking was allowed.<sup>xv</sup>
- A study on the impact of SHS in Pennsylvania casinos found that exposure causes five times as many premature deaths as Pennsylvania mining disasters.<sup>xvi</sup>

"The cigarette smoke in the casinos was hurting me so badly that I was struggling to breathe." – Alecia Sibio, Former Casino Worker<sup>xiii</sup>

## Improving Workers' Health

Smoke-free casino laws reduce exposure to SHS and improve the health of casino workers and patrons:

- NIOSH and the Surgeon General recommend that ALL workers be protected from involuntary exposure to SHS.<sup>xvii,xviii</sup>
- Research has shown that smoke-free policies reduce workers' long-term risk of lung cancer and cardiovascular disease.<sup>xix, xx, xxi, xxii, xxiii, xxiv</sup>
- Comprehensive smoke-free policies also reduce the risk of hospitalizations and death from heart, stroke, and lung diseases.<sup>xxv</sup> More comprehensive smoke-free laws had an even greater impact on risk of disease and death.

- A study comparing SHS particulate levels in 66 U.S. casinos where smoking is allowed with three non-smoking casinos found that the smoke-free casinos had, on average, 94 percent lower levels of SHS particulate.<sup>xxvi</sup> In about half of the smoking casinos, the SHS levels exceeded a level known to increase cardiovascular risk in nonsmokers after less than 2 hours of exposure, posing acute health risks for patrons and workers. In casinos with a non-smoking section, the ventilation and separation systems were unable to remove the majority of the SHS that a comprehensive smoke-free law removed.<sup>xxvii</sup>
- Another recent study found a 19.1 percent decrease in ambulance calls originating from Colorado casinos as a result of the extension of smoke-free laws to casinos.<sup>xxviii</sup>

## Improving the Bottom Line

Smoke-free casino laws are popular and good for business.

- There is strong public support for making casinos smoke-free. Three years after the implementation of Iowa's smoke-free law, 63 percent of voters supported expanding the smoke-free law to casinos.<sup>xxix</sup> More than 70 percent of New Jersey voters supported extending the statewide Smoke-Free Air Act to cover casino gaming floors in 2007. In Southern California, more than 85 percent of gaming customers surveyed in Indian casinos stated that they would prefer a smoke free environment.<sup>xxx</sup>
- When smoking is allowed in the workplace, business owners increase their costs of doing business. Employers pay increased health, life, and fire insurance premiums, make higher workers' compensation payments, incur higher worker absenteeism, and settle for lower worker productivity.<sup>xxxi, xxxii, xxxiii, xxxiv, xxxv, xxxvi, xxxvii, xxxviii</sup>
- Employees who smoke have significantly higher absentee, injury, accident, and disciplinary rates than their nonsmoking colleagues.<sup>xxxix, xl, xli, xlii</sup>
- Studies on the impact of smoke-free gaming laws in Delaware and Kentucky showed that the laws had no effect on total gaming revenue.<sup>xliii, xliv</sup>
- A Massachusetts study found that 100 percent smoke-free ordinances did not negatively affect profits from bingo and other gambling sponsored by charitable organizations.<sup>xlv</sup>

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