

John Millard

From: Kateri Wimsett <kateri.wimsett@co.thurston.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 10:11 AM
To: John Millard
Subject: Smoking and Vaping in Public Places

Hello!

Earlier this year, I presented to the Tenino City Council about some county work being done around a Vaping in Public Places Ordinance. I am writing now to follow up with you about that work. The county is considering a local ordinance to the Sanitary Code that would formally adopt the statewide Smoking in Public Places law that was passed in 2005 and also extend the provisions of the law to include vaping. This law works to prevent youth initiation of vaping along with protecting all citizens from secondhand smoke and vapor emissions.

A few highlights of what the ordinance does:

- Smoking or vaping in indoor public places would not be allowed.
- It would also make some changes as to what outdoor areas are covered. Youth oriented outdoor public places such as playgrounds, and property outside of childcares and K12 public and private schools, already protected under state law for vaping would be covered consistently for the two exposure pathways in the local ordinance to protect young people from both secondhand smoke and vapor emissions.
- Outdoor places of employment where employees are expected to go (such as decks and patios) are also identified in the draft ordinance as locations where smoking and vaping would not be allowed.

The county will be moving forward with this work. In September we will be going to the Thurston County Board of Health to schedule a public hearing date. That hearing will be scheduled for no sooner than sometime in October, with public notice in the month before that date, according to the requirements.

If the local ordinance is adopted, Thurston County would look to have a time period (currently drafted as six months) to educate both the public and business owners before pursuing penalties.

If you have questions about this work or would like more information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kateri Wimsett

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Please note: I work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. If you send an email to me on a Wednesday, I will reply when I return to the office.

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