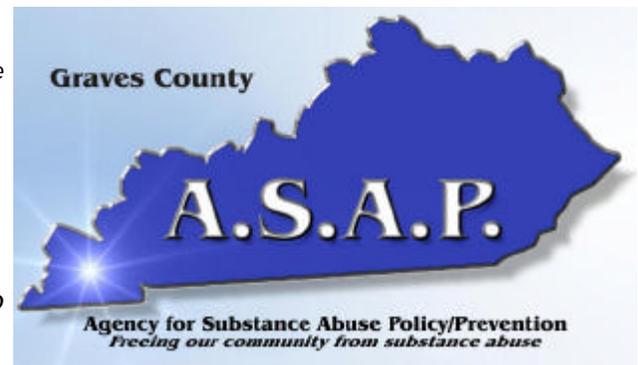


Our Vision - Freeing our community from substance abuse

Our Mission - The Graves County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy board will help our community be free of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) by helping change the culture that approves of and supports ATOD. This will be accomplished by working with concerned community partners to educate, treat, and prevent ATOD use.

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Points supporting the smoking ordinance in Mayfield, KY

Speech given to the Mayfield City Council 6/10/13,
by Joseph A. Williams, Coordinator of the Graves
County Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

1. This is not a campaign against smokers. I know many smokers that I like very much and they are good and respectable people. This is a public health and safety issue about what second hand smoke does when it enters another person's body.

2. Science has proven that there are 70 cancer causing chemicals in tobacco smoke. Science has proven that non-smokers exposed to second hand smoke increase their risk of lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent. According to data from the CDC, 7,800 adult Kentucky citizens die each year from health complications attributed to smoking. **Eighty-two** of those yearly deaths are citizens of Mayfield & Graves County. Those deaths have likely impacted you, your friends, or a family member in some way. My grandmother never smoked a day in her life but she lived in a house with my grandfather who smoked everyday. She died as a result of complications to COPD.

3. We must consider the rights of employees who cannot find a better job or maybe they enjoy their job and do not want to look for different work. It is a problem when they must continue working in an environment where they are harmed by second hand smoke. What about the potential for law suits in the future since we have the science about how second hand smoke harms and we do nothing to prevent it?

4. An across the board Smoke-free ordinance will level the playing field for all businesses and help them reduce health insurance costs by reducing the number of individuals who experience issues due to first hand and second hand smoke inhalation. I'm a firm believer that we all have the freedom in this country to legally put a substance in our bodies that has scientifically been proven to harm, but those rights end whenever our legal substance use harms another person. When other people are harmed by smokers, who by the way are in the minority in Graves County(1 out of 3 adults, or 1 out of 4 of the total population including children), then we should be willing to give up a little freedom so that a the majority of people will not be harmed. Some restaurants are fearful of losing customers. Studies show that if they loose a smoking customer they will gain at least one to two non-smokers because people will no longer be forced to avoid their restaurant due to the second hand smoke. In many people especially children and the elderly, secondhand smoke exacerbates asthma, allergy, COPD, and heart health problems.

To Summarize

1. This is not a campaign against smokers. This is a public health and safety issue about protecting citizens from the harmfulness of second hand smoke.
2. Science has proven second hand smoke is harmful to everyone exposed to it.
3. Workers should have the right to make a living without putting their health at risk due to breathing second hand smoke.
4. An across the board Smoke-free law will level the playing field and make it easier for businesses to implement the policy.

It is time to take action against second hand smoke. I have reviewed the ordinance and I agree with all of it except for section 3 lower case letter g - the smoke proof enclosed room. I'm concerned that this will not protect employees who wait tables. The statement seems contradictory of the findings regarding the harmfulness of second hand smoke. I encourage you to amend out the section that permits a smoke proof room and support adoption of the ordinance without that amendment.

Thank you.

Are there any questions?