

The City of Grand Rapids

Clean Indoor Air



Ordinance

What Employees and Citizens Need to Know

When does the ordinance go into effect?

The ordinance will go into effect on October 1, 2006. The Clean Indoor Air Ordinance was approved by the Grand Rapids City Council on October 17, 2006. This ordinance prohibits all smoking in enclosed workplaces and public places except bars and restaurants

Why did the City Commission pass this ordinance?

Secondhand smoke is the 2nd leading cause of preventable death in Michigan. Nonsmokers who are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke suffer death rates 30% higher than that of unexposed nonsmokers. Secondhand smoke is proven to cause heart disease, lung cancer, emphysema, and asthma.

This ordinance will create safer, healthier public environments and may decrease health care and insurance costs for employers.

Which places will become smoke-free?

Most enclosed worksites and public spaces excluding bars and restaurants are covered. This means that all indoor areas within a business –offices, stairways, hallways, restrooms-must be smoke-free.

Taxicabs, sports arenas, service lines, laudro-mats as well as the common areas in residential and commercial buildings such as apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks, will need to be smoke-free. Business-owned vehicles are also required to be smoke-free.

Is smoking allowed outside?

Yes, except that smoking is not allowed within 10 feet of doors, window, and ventilation systems of smoke-free places.

How will the ordinance be enforced?

If someone has a concern, they should first talk with the business manager or owner. If the concern remains, complaints should be directed to the appropriate City staff. Complaint forms will be available on the City's website.

What is the penalty/fine for a violation?

Penalties have not yet been set by the City but non-compliance by businesses or individuals will be treated as a municipal civil infraction and treated accordingly.

How do I get more information?

Information is available at the City website or at tobaccofreepartners.org. You also may call 616-732-6262 if you have any questions.

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