

Dear Trustee:

As an Oak Park resident I would like to express my strong support for passing an ordinance to prohibit smoking in public places, such as restaurants, bars and other workplaces. As a community that has demonstrated leadership on public health issues, now is the time to declare Oak Park 100% smoke-free. Secondhand smoke is not an annoyance that can be controlled with ventilation, fans or large partitions. Secondhand smoke is a serious threat to health.

Secondhand smoke contains 69 chemicals that cause cancer. Among these are formaldehyde, benzene, and acetone. No level of exposure to a cancer causing chemical can be considered safe. Secondhand smoke is extremely dangerous to the heart. Even as little as 30 minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke has a negative effect on arteries and oxygen's flow to the heart is decreased.

Most of us are fortunate to work in a smoke-free environment, but not everyone is so lucky. Restaurants and other workplaces that allow smoking are health risks for people with asthma and other lung diseases. Cigarette smoke is the number one trigger for asthma attacks in the United States. Restaurant workers are 50% more likely to develop lung cancer.

Everyone deserves to breathe smoke-free indoor air. I urge you to guarantee this right by passing a comprehensive clean indoor air ordinance for the Village of Oak Park.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,