



City of Meriden, Connecticut

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Lea Crown, MPH
Director of Health and Human Services

165 Miller Street
Meriden, CT 06450-4283
Telephone (203) 630-4226
Fax (203) 639-0039

Press Release – For Immediate Release **Ordinance Prohibiting Smoking Around Municipal Buildings**

(July 17, 2017) – On July 17, 2017, the Meriden City Council approved the adoption of an ordinance submitted by the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services entitled Chapter 153: Peace and Good Order, Article Iv: *Prohibition on Smoking and the use of Tobacco Products around Municipal Buildings*. This ordinance prohibits smoking and the use of all tobacco products within 25 feet of doors, windows, and air intakes around city municipal buildings such as City Hall, the Meriden Senior Center, and the Library. Hunter Memorial Golf Course is excluded from this ordinance. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, vaping devices and electronic cigarettes.

The ordinance will be enforced by the City of Meriden Police Officers and the City is requesting compliance from employees, residents, vendors, and others who conduct business at municipal buildings. A warning will be issued for a first offense, after the warning fines may be issued up to \$99.00. Signs for both awareness of the ordinance and marking designated smoking areas are in the process of being designed and will be hung outside each municipal building. A person smoking in a designated area will not be penalized. The Meriden City Manager, Guy Scaife, has a positive outlook on the new ordinance. “I am very pleased to see the Council take positive action on this important public health issue. We have an obligation to our employees and the general public to provide as best possible an environment free of second hand smoke. The passage of this ordinance modification further strengthens the original smoking ban ordinance currently in effect.”

The goal of the ordinance is to improve the health of the public and the environment by reducing exposure to second hand smoke and reduce tobacco litter around city buildings. “Second hand smoke is known to cause dangerous health problems including cancer, asthma and other respiratory problems, and increase the risk of heart disease and stroke. Children who are exposed to second hand smoke are at risk for asthma, sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, and ear infections”, states Lea Crown, Director of Health and Human Services. Mayor Kevin Scarpati states, “Offering smoke free environments around Meriden ensures that where people live, work, and play has more impact on how well and long they live. Ultimately, our consideration and adoption of the smoke free ordinance is one of the best investments that a city government can make in our community’s future.”

The ordinance will take effect when all signs are hung; an announcement will be made on the City of Meriden website, social media sites, and another press release will be issued.

For more information about this ordinance, contact the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services at (203) 630-4221. The Department also has a free stop smoking program for area residents, for information on the program please contact GERALYN at 203-630-4003.

Written by Desiree Rondeau, Public Health Intern