

30 Conant Hall
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

19 September
1975

Cambridge City Council
City Hall, Central Square
Cambridge, MA 02139

Gentlepeople:

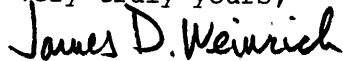
I have recently heard that you have passed an ordinance prohibiting smoking in public places.

As a registered voter in Ward 7, Precint 2, Cambridge, and a non-smoker, I would like to commend you in your action.

I am allergic to tobacco smoke. Even if I were not, I find it hard to understand why smokers feel they have the right to impose their own health hazards on unwilling bystanders. Carbon monoxide, microscopic particles, proven carcinogens, and other noxious materials are morally acceptable to inflict upon oneself, but if one wants to inflict them upon others one should ask first. It is precisely in public places -- restaurants, elevators, busses, Council hearing rooms, stores --where one is least likely to know the person one is next to, and where one is thus most restrained from asking perfect strangers to behave themselves. All my smoking friends know my aversion and avoid smoking in my presence, for which I thank them. It is precisely in public, however, where the force of law would be most helpful to me in keeping my health.

I therefore request that you keep your anti-smoking ordinance in effect.

Very truly yours,



James D. Weinrich

City of Cambridge

Comm. from James D. Weinrich, Harvard
University, relative to the "no Smoking"
Ordinance.

In City Council,

September 22, 1975

9/22/75

Placed on File