



GASP of Massachusetts

Group Against Smoking Pollution

25 Deaconess Rd., Boston, MA 02215 617-266-2088

TESTIMONY OF EDWARD L. SWEDA, JR. BEFORE THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL, DECEMBER 19, 1988

I am Edward L. Sweda, Jr., an attorney and lobbyist for GASP of Massachusetts. I wish to convey GASP's suggestions for improving enforcement of and enhancing compliance with the landmark ordinance that this body passed into law in December 1986.

Let me begin by commending the Council for holding tonight's hearing; to my knowledge, it is unique for a legislative body to follow-up passage of a smoking control measure with analysis and suggested improvements regarding the implementation of that measure.

Having noted the importance of this hearing, let me offer the following observations.

It is critically important for health inspectors to include this ordinance on their checklist of things to observe during inspections. Obviously, it is quite simple to determine if no-smoking signs are adequately posted. This has been done in Brookline and other communities; it should be done on a consistent basis in Cambridge as well.

Violations of the smoking ordinance observed by health officials should be treated as seriously as other violations that threaten the public health. Medical knowledge of the health hazards of secondhand tobacco smoke demands no less.

Therefore, I would also recommend that the City Council urge the Commissioner of Health and Hospitals to take specific action (including applying for injunctive relief pursuant to subsection (f) paragraph (3) of the ordinance) against a business that deliberately ignores the provisions of the law. Such an example would go a long way to improve enforcement of the ordinance throughout the city and underscore the principle that no one is above the law.

I would be happy to provide the Council with any resources at GASP's disposal to assist you in implementing ways to improve enforcement of the ordinance and thereby further protect the health of the people who live in or visit Cambridge.

Thank you.



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