

City Council Office
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to bring to your attention and to ask for your policy about dealing with the blatant and non-chalante atmosphere in which the non-smoking ordinance is routinely violated in the Graduate School of Design building, or George Gund Hall of Harvard University.

Most smoking occurs in the studio area of Gund Hall, which occupies the main volume of the building. Because of the nature of the architectural education, students spend long hours working in their assigned studio spaces. Consequently most socializing happens in the same area. Smokers smoke at their desk while working or while talking to friends. The problem is that non-smokers have to spend long hours there, too. In the most unfortunate case, a non-smoker would be assigned, without any provisions on the school's part for anticipated smoking in the studio area, to a space back to back with a smoker in a semi-enclosed booth.

When the new ordinance became effective in last March, most people stopped smoking for a while. Then they started again at late hours, then after 6pm, and by the end of the school year or May, the situation had gone back to the original state prior to March 7th.

The negative effects of smoking to both smokers and non-smokers have been extensively discussed and publicized and I will not dwell on them. However, one peculiarity that should be mentioned is that this is a rare situation where it is more difficult than, say, in a restaurant, for non-smokers to ask smokers to stop smoking in the studio since we spend time together and, thus maintaining a good working relationship is crucial. Especially when smokers outnumber non-smokers, the latter could not do too much except for "getting the nerve up" to risk personal tension.

The Graduate School of Design asked for cooperation when the rule was introduced and a poll was taken before the summer break on the reaction of the student body to the new rule. Otherwise, it has made no effort to enforce it, nor does it have any mechanism known to the student body, of reporting incidents or filing a complaint. In fact, with faculty members, staff members, and night watch people ignoring the ordinance, I have no idea whom to complain to.

The GSD, in my opinion, should at least clarify its policy about violators and take a stronger stance on enforcing the rule. It would take much more publicity and some kind of mechanism in the administration to

deal with such educational campaigns as well as with complaints and reports of incidences of violation.

The University and the City of Cambridge, I feel, also have some responsibility to see to it that the GSD, as well as other schools of the University, respect and administer the smoking ban with effectiveness.

I would like to ask the city how it envisioned to enforce the ordinance in all the public buildings in Cambridge; the Cambridge and Harvard University Police Departments how they deal with reported incidents or complaints and if they have any intention and means of seeing that the ordinance not be violated; and the University and GSD why they have not taken any substantial measure to protect non-smokers and not let anybody so blatantly break a law before having someone suing someone else. For this reason I am sending this letter to all the five institutions mentioned above.

I hope the non-smoking city ordinance which was considered to be a revolutionery public health regulation, the first of its kind in the nation, will not end up to be only a symbolic legislation with no actual effect.

Looking forward to your swift response to this matter, I remain

Sincerely,

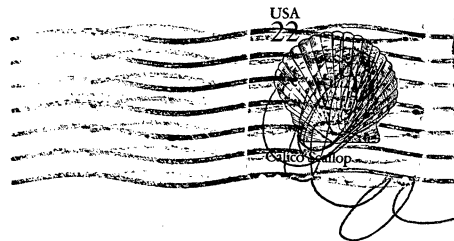
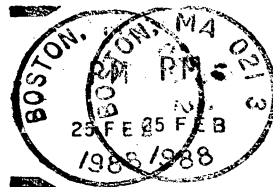


Hisaya Sugiyama
3 Durham Street #2
Somerville, MA 02143

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Hisaya Sugiyama
3 Durham Street, Apt #2
Somerville, MA 02143

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City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139



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11S-153

Comm. from Hisaya Sugiyama, relative to the enforcement of the no-smoking ordinance at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and more specifically, Gund Hall.

In City Council,

March 7, 1988

3-7-88

Referred to the Health
Commissioner for a
Report.

3/9/88, copy sent to Dr. Melvin
Chelfen, Commissioner, Health Dept.
3/9
mh