

ORDINANCE NO. 93-3146

WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General has concluded that involuntary smoking is a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in non-smokers; and

WHEREAS, the possession of lighted smoking materials in public places is a nuisance and is hazardous to the public health, safety, comfort, convenience, and indoor environment; and

WHEREAS, the simple separation of smokers and non-smokers within the same air space may reduce, but does not eliminate, the exposure of non-smokers to environmental tobacco smoke; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Decatur, Alabama, finds that it is necessary to prohibit smoking in public places except in areas designated as "smoking" areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Decatur, Alabama, as follows:

Section 1. "That the CODE OF DECATUR, ALABAMA, is hereby amended by adding a chapter to be numbered Chapter 18.5, which said Chapter reads as follows:

Chapter 18.5

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

Section 18.5-1

- (a) "Smoking" or "Smoke" shall include the carrying, holding, or possession of lighted smoking materials in any form, including but not limited to, the possession of lighted cigarettes, cigars, pipes, or other tobacco products;
- (b) "Public" or "Public Place" shall mean any enclosed area that is used by the general public, or that is a place of business or employment, or that is a public meeting area, and includes, but is not limited to: stores, offices and other commercial establishments, restaurants, public and private educational institutions, health care facilities, nursery and convalescent homes, government buildings, public transportation vehicles, elevators, restrooms, and other areas as described in Section 18.5-2;

- (c) "Service Line" means any indoor line at which one or more persons are waiting for or receiving service of any kind, regardless of whether such service involves the exchange of money;
- (d) "Employee" means any person who is employed by an employer for compensation or profit;
- (e) "Employer" means any person, partnership, corporation, association or other entity, that employs one or more persons;
- (f) "Place of Employment" means any indoor area under the control of an employer to which employees have access during the course of employment, including, but not limited to work areas, employee lounges, employee restrooms, conference rooms and employee cafeterias. A private residence is not a place of employment.

Section 18.5-2. Offenses.

Except as provided in Section 18.5-3 and 18.5-4, smoking is prohibited in any of the following public places:

- (a) Any commercial establishment, including but not limited to retail stores, restaurants, banks, office buildings and offices;
- (b) Any vehicle of public transportation, including but not limited to trains, buses, taxicabs and limousines;
- (c) Elevators;
- (d) Restrooms;
- (e) Libraries, schools or other education facilities, museums, auditoriums and art galleries;
- (f) Any public area of a health care facility, health clinics or ambulatory care facilities, including but not limited to laboratories associated with the rendition of health care treatment, hospitals, rest homes, doctors' offices and dentists' offices;
- (g) Any indoor place of entertainment or recreation, including but not limited to gymnasiums, theatres, concert halls, recreation halls, arenas and swimming pools;

- (h) Any other enclosed area used by the public or serving as a place of work;
- (i) Hospitals shall accommodate non-smokers by prohibiting smoking in all hospital rooms, except where all the occupants thereof consent to smoking.

Section 18.5-3. Exceptions.

Section 18.5-2 and the restrictions imposed therein shall not apply to:

- (a) Areas which are specifically designated as smoking areas in accordance with Section 18.5-4 of this chapter;
- (b) An entire room or hall which is used for private social functions, provided that the event is under the control of the sponsor of the function and not of the proprietor or person in charge of the establishment or Hall;
- (c) A separated bar area of a restaurant; or a licensed lounge.
- (d) Taxicabs and limousines where the driver and all passengers affirmatively consent to smoking in such vehicle;
- (e) A private, enclosed office, if all persons present consent, and further provided that this exception shall not be construed to permit smoking in the reception areas of lobbies or offices unless designated as smoking areas;
- (f) Performers upon the stage, provided that the smoking is part of a theatrical production;
- (g) A tobacco specialty retail shop;
- (h) Any restaurant between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m.;
- (i) Any public place which in its entirety is too small to allow any practical separation of smokers and nonsmokers, determined by the Tri-County Health Department.

Section 18.5-4. Designation of Smoking Areas.

- (a) Smoking areas may be designated by proprietors or other persons in charge of a public place as designated in Section 18.5-2, except in places in which smoking is otherwise prohibited by the Fire Department of the City of Decatur or by other statute, ordinance, or regulation.

- (b) Where smoking areas are designated, each smoking area shall:
- (1) Be set apart or separated from non-smoking areas; and
  - (2) Be situated so existing barriers and functioning ventilation systems are used to minimize the irritating and toxic effects of smoke in adjacent non-smoking areas; and
  - (3) Be designated by appropriate signs which are clearly visible to patrons in or entering the area via the front entrance to the premises; and
  - (4) Contain ashtrays, containers or other facilities for the extinguishment of smoking materials; and
  - (5) Not include service lines or cashier areas.
  - (6) Not include meat or produce counter areas in any store.
- (c) No public place within Section 18.5-2, other than those areas enumerated as exceptions under Section 18.5-3, shall be designated as a smoking area in its entirety.

Section 18.5-5. Responsibility of Proprietors.

The proprietor or other person having control of any area within Section 18.5-2 shall:

- (a) Provide a seat in a non-smoking area for all persons requesting such a seat;
- (b) Prominently post "SMOKING" or "NO SMOKING" signs, whichever may be appropriate, or the international "NO SMOKING" symbol consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a bar across it. The proprietor or other person having control of such building or public place shall clearly and conspicuously post such sign in every room, building or other area where smoking is regulated by this Ordinance;
- (c) Post signs conspicuously in the lobby of every theatre stating that smoking is prohibited within the theatre or auditorium, and in the case of motion picture theatres such information shall be shown upon the screen prior to the showing of each feature motion picture;
- (d) Request persons smoking in violation of this Ordinance to stop, or to leave the non-smoking area to a designated smoking area.

Section 18.5-6.

Regulation of Smoking in the Workplace.

Each employer in the City of Decatur shall implement and maintain a written smoking policy for its employees within sixty (60) days after this Ordinance becomes law. The policy shall contain, at a minimum, the following provisions and requirements:

- (a) The employer shall accommodate, insofar as possible, the preferences of non-smoking and smoking employees; but, in situations where smokers and non-smokers must work in close proximity and non-smokers will be exposed to smoke, the preferences of the non-smoker will prevail. An employer is not required by this provision to incur any expense for making structural or other physical modification to accommodate the preferences of non-smoking or smoking employees.
- (b) The smoking policy shall be announced within three weeks of adoption to all employees working in the place of employment and posted conspicuously in all workplaces under the employer's control.
- (c) No employer shall discharge or otherwise discriminate against any employee by reason of his/her insistence upon his/her rights to a reasonable accommodation as provided in this section.

Section 18.5-7.

Enforcement.

The provisions of this Article are enforceable by any duly sworn police officer employed by the City of Decatur, the County Health Officer or a duly authorized representative thereof, or as otherwise allowed by law for prosecution of offenses.

Section 18.5-8

Penalty.

Any person who willfully smokes in an area where smoking is prohibited under this Ordinance; or,

Any business proprietor or person in charge of a public place who fails or refuses to designate smoking and non-smoking areas as required herein; or, who being asked to do so fails or refuses to enforce the designations; or,

Any employer who fails or refuses to adopt and implement a written smoking policy for the workplace which shall reasonably accommodate, insofar as possible as herein provided, the preferences of smoking and non-smoking employees;

shall be guilty of an "offense", and shall be subject to punishment by a fine not less than ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) nor more than FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) for each such "offense". Each day any violation of this Ordinance shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 18.5-9. Miscellaneous.

- (a) Nothing in this Article excuses non-compliance with any Federal or State law, other City of Decatur Ordinance, or any rule or regulation which prohibits smoking.
- (b) Validity or Constitutionality. If any portion of this chapter shall be held unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of this chapter nor render the remaining portions of this chapter invalid, and to that end the provisions hereof are declared to be severable.
- (c) This Ordinance shall become effective the 1st day of July, 1993."

ADOPTED this the 7th day of June, 1993.

ATTEST:

Alicia Buckley  
City Clerk

APPROVED this the 9th day of June, 1993.

[Signature]  
Mayor of the City of  
Decatur, Alabama