



Dear Business Owner,

On October 28th, 2014 the Branson Board of Alderman unanimously approved a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance for enclosed workplaces and public places within our community. A copy of the ordinance can be viewed on the City's website, but generally smoking will be prohibited in the following locations:

- All enclosed places of employment
- All enclosed public places
- Within 6 feet of outside entrances, operable windows and ventilation systems where smoking is prohibited.
- Within 4 feet of outside entrances, operable windows and ventilation systems within the downtown district where smoking is prohibited.

The ordinance will take effect on July 1st, 2015. In the months approaching this date, the City of Branson and the Taney County Health Department will work to provide education, information, access to resources and signage to help your business transition to a smoke-free environment. Specifically, there will be trainings in early 2015 at the Taney County Health Department and window clings will be available at City Hall when you renew your business license for 2015. The window clings will be free and will make sure your customers are made aware of this policy change while also making sure your business is in compliance with the ordinance. If you would like to start the transition to a smoke-free workplace now, please contact Kara Miller (417-334-4544 ext. 225 or millek2@lpha.mopublic.org) at any time and she will be happy to help in facilitating the process.

Enforcement of this policy will be complaint driven. To file a complaint or violation of this ordinance, contact the Branson Police Department by calling the nonemergency number (417-334-3300). In thousands of municipalities that have implemented smoke-free ordinances, and the 26 communities in Missouri, enforcement has been found to be a non-issue with very few violations on record.

Please be assured that the City of Branson intends to enforce provisions of this ordinance for both individuals who smoke in an enclosed public place and owners and managers who allow smoking in a prohibited area. Compliance with this ordinance is greatly appreciated as the purpose is to improve the health of our community. For more information on this topic and to stay up to date with services available to your business, visit <http://www.cityofbranson.org/499/Smoke-Free-Branson>.

For current smokers who want to quit, services are available through Cox Health. Visit the website <http://www.skaggs.net/Main/SmokingCessation.aspx> or contact Jim Brawner (417-348-8498). Also, the statewide Quitline offers free coaching to anyone over the phone or the web (1-800-QUITNOW).