

From: [John Jungwirth](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Smoking Marijuana near Public Buildings/City Parks
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 9:47:48 PM

I urge the members of the St. Paul City Council to remember that there are people, both young and old, who cannot tolerate breathing second-hand smoke from any source. There are also people who are allergic to THC. The rather unpleasant skunk-like odor emitted by those smoking marijuana readily travels on the wind and a 25-foot barrier means next to nothing if the wind is blowing in the wrong direction. While driving through Como Park one evening last week, I was subjected to the odor of marijuana at three separate locations in the park. There is no way I could have my family sitting in the park having a picnic when people are smoking marijuana 20 feet away. The closest my vehicle was to an actual gathering of people was 25 yards and I was moving at 25 mph with my car windows down. The same holds true when walking into a public building where people are smoking anywhere near the entrance. One is forced to pass through the cloud of smoke in order to enter. Last but not least, I recently noticed that teachers/employees of a local elementary school can only smoke off school property. So, they walk across the street to smoke on the public sidewalk outside the homes of people living there. While they are not smoking marijuana, one must ask why a property owner has to put up with someone smoking outside their home especially when windows are open and the smoke and odor enters the person's home.

This situation is no different than when you could smoke in the "smoking section" of an airplane or theater. It's like swimming in the "no peeing" section of the swimming pool! As someone who spent over 30 years in the healthcare field and with a Master's Degree in Public Health, I believe we should be trying to reduce pollutants of every kind from the urban core given the number of people suffering from asthma and other respiratory ailments. Let's not make things worse for them.

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