

From: [Thomas Kottke](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Testimony on Ordinance 20-37
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:00:41 PM
Attachments: [EA-MV-18_0739.jpg](#)

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for considering this ordinance. My name is Thomas Kottke, and I live at 571 Otis Avenue in St. Paul. I am the Medical Director for Well-being at HealthPartners and immediate past president of Twin Cities Medical Society. I practiced cardiology for 40 years. In my job, I often see the unfortunate results of tobacco use, including the health disparities caused by it. I am in full support of the city's ordinance to require owners to disclose their condo building's smoking policy.

Thank you for addressing the important, pertinent issue of secondhand smoke exposure in multi-unit housing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has concluded that there is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure. Secondhand smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals, 70 of which are known to cause cancer in humans. Exposure to secondhand smoke can exacerbate or cause serious health concerns like asthma, COPD, cancer, heart disease, and sudden infant death syndrome. Since 1964, an estimated two and a half million nonsmokers have died from health problems caused by exposure to secondhand smoke.

Building design can't control exposure to secondhand smoke, and a building's heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems can distribute secondhand smoke throughout the building. Thirdhand smoke, the residue and chemicals that are left behind when smoke settles in a room, is also hazardous to health. These chemicals can be absorbed through the skin or ingested by young children or pets.

Homebuyers and their families have the right to know if second and thirdhand smoke will be a risk they will encounter in their new home. Implementing this ordinance is a solid first step in protecting all Minnesotans from the dangers of second and thirdhand smoke. This is about keeping people safe and healthy. Thank you for doing this.

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