

I urge you to not pass this proposed smoking legislation as written. 17

[As far as banning smoking in parks and other public places such as seating areas outside of restaurants:] The committee report is so long and lacks any summary of the key points, that I do not have a clear picture of exactly what areas -"outside of the walls of buildings"- it wants to ban. in addition to parks + benches.

Those involved with this silly idea, do not understand that this ban on smoking in parks and other public places is a restriction on personal freedom of the homeless and would further hurt the homeless, ~~the mentally ill, and the addicted~~ among us. ~~who~~ <sup>who</sup> ~~may be found on some park benches~~ <sup>since there are</sup> ~~the morally superior authors~~ <sup>not enough Day Program for them</sup>

Apparently, no thought was given to what smoking means to ~~the mentally ill~~ <sup>the</sup> the homeless. Fact: <sup>as reported in the Bos. Globe.</sup> ~~One~~ <sup>FIGHTING?</sup> ~~third~~ <sup>ON</sup> of our homeless are mentally ill, another third are addicts, and the last third includes, of course, people fighting depression, hunger, poverty, and many more of life's traumas, and for these people a few seconds of relief comes with a cigarette.

The Police Dept budget already includes a large chunk of money devoted to <sup>the</sup> ~~policing~~ <sup>Homeless</sup> the homeless. Until this city steps up and provides housing, drug treatment, job training, health care and more in order to bring some stability to the lives of all of our homeless among us, please allow them to have the one thing that brings them a few moments of relief from their immense stress, i.e., smoking <sup>(outside of the walls of Bldgs.)</sup> in parks, on the sidewalk, etc. I find this clause of the proposed amendment to be one of the most heartless pieces of legislation ever conceived. I hope some of the self-righteous folks who promote this ban will take a few hours out of their week to help some homeless person, ... not shun him or her.

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