

November 18, 2023 Work Session

A work session meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on November 18, 2023 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 9:00 AM with Mayor LC Jones residing. Other Council Members present included Kathy Lawson, Aaron Rawls, Lawrence Mitchell and Tammy Pearson. Staff present included City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides.

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 9:00AM. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act and upon a motion by Vice Mayor Rawls and seconded by Council Member Lawson with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Vice Mayor Rawls, aye; Council Member Pearson, aye; Council Member Mitchell, aye; Mayor Jones, aye; and Council Member Lawson, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) Personnel Discussions, as authorized by Subsection 1, (B) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, as authorized but Subsection 3, as authorized by Subsection 3, (C) Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community, as authorized by Subsection 5. And (D) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7, as authorized by Subsection 7. At the conclusion of Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements were discussed in said Closed Session; and (2) only those business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during the meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Lawson and seconded by Council Member Pearson with the following recorded 5-0 vote: Mayor Jones, aye; Vice Mayor Rawls, aye; Council Member Lawson, aye; Council Member Mitchell, aye; and Council Member Pearson, aye

No action was taken out of Closed Session

Hear a presentation by Share the Air – Representatives from Share the Air made a brief presentation summarizing the Share the Air organization



Campaign Goal: Create 100% Tobacco-Free and E-Cigarette-Free Outdoor Public Spaces

Become a Champion by adopting a tobacco-free and e-cigarette-free outdoor policy.



WHY GO TOBACCO-FREE?

- Tobacco and e-cigarette use in outdoor places creates litter that is not only unsightly but also poses significant risks to humans, pets, and the environment.
- Parklands and recreation centers serve as pillars of health for families and should reflect that to promote healthy communities.
- Recent events banning e-cigarette products from store shelves highlight risks associated with usage.



93% Virginians in and around Martinsville believe that cigarettes, empty e-cigarette, and vaping cartridges are litter, and are toxic to humans and animals.

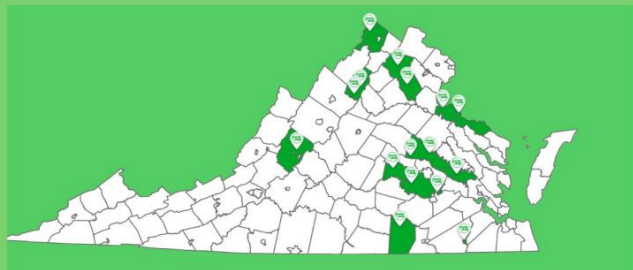


85% of Virginians in and around Martinsville believe tobacco litter negatively impacts their outdoor experience.



98% of Virginians in and around Martinsville area are in favor of tobacco-free outdoor policies.

Check Out Share The Air's Partners!!



sharetheairva.com

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND PARTNER RESPONSE

This program being very low cost and low barrier was the perfect way to start initiatives in our town that help improve the quality of life for our citizens. Not just for our residents, but our visitors as well.

Emmy Houck, Parks & Recreation Coordinator, Ashland



Congratulations ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION for going smoke-free, vapor-free, and tobacco-free.

When I or my staff have been at parks or playgrounds, and fields, parents have pointed out the signs and they've been very happy that we are advertising the fact that you shouldn't be smoking or vaping near sports fields or playgrounds.

Chris Clarke, Director of Parks and Recreation, King George County



Congratulations KING GEORGE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION for going smoke-free, vapor-free, and tobacco-free.



FREE Tobacco-Free Signage

ALUMINUM SIGNS: BEST FOR OUTDOOR AREAS

- Sign Poles/Lampposts
- Fences
- Athletic Fields or Playgrounds
- Parking Lots
- Outside of Buildings

DECALS: BEST FOR ENTRIES

- Windows
- Glass Doors



FREE Resources

Toolkit Includes:

- Tobacco-Free and E-Cigarette-Free Model Policy
- Comprehensive Policy Checklist
- Implementation & Communication Resources
- And more!



FACT SHEET

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3. Lowrie, C., Pearson, A. L., & Thomson, G. (2018). Inequities in coverage of smokefree outdoor space policies within the United States: school grounds and playgrounds. BMC public health, 18(1), 736.

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5. Aleguas A, Alpert HR, Connolly GN, et al. Unintentional Child Poisonings Through Ingestion of Conventional and Novel Tobacco Products. Pediatrics. 2010; 125(5):896-899. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/125/5/896>

6. American Academy of Pediatrics. (2018). Liquid Nicotine Used in E-Cigarettes Can Kill Children. Retrieved from <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Liquid-Nicotine-Used-in-E-Cigarettes-Can-Kill-Children.aspx>

7. Flouris, A. D., Chorti, M. S., Pouliant, K. P., Jamurtas, A. Z., Kostikas, K., Tzatzarakis, M. N., ... & Koutedakis, Y. (2013). Acute impact of active and passive electronic cigarette smoking on serum cotinine and lung function. Inhalation toxicology, 25(2), 91-101. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23363041>

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9. Reilly, S. M., Bitzer, Z. T., Goel, R., Trushin, N., & Richie Jr, J. P. (2018). Free Radical, Carbonyl, and Nicotine Levels Produced by Juul Electronic Cigarettes. Nicotine & tobacco research: official journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

10. Virginia Department of Health, Virginia 2018 Asthma Burden Report (2018). http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/94/2018/11/Asthma-Burden-Report_Final_10232018-1.pdf

11. Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Medicine 2012 Dec; 2(12): a012120. Short- and Long-Term Consequences of Nicotine Exposure during Adolescence for Prefrontal Cortex Neuronal Network Function. Natalia A. Goriounova and Huibert D. Mansvelder. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3543069/>

12. Olmedo, P., Goessler, W., Tanda, S., Grau-Perez, M., Jarmul, S., Aherrera, A., ... & Rule, A. M. (2018). Metal concentrations in e-cigarette liquid and aerosol samples: the contribution of metallic coils. Environmental Health Perspectives (Online), 126(2). Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2012. Toxicological Profile for Chromium. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services.

KEY FACTS

- Tobacco products are the most littered item nationwide, accounting for nearly 40% of all littered items.¹
- A non-user exposed to secondhand aerosol smoke produced by the exhaled particles from electronic cigarettes could be exposed to particles similar in size to tobacco smoke and diesel engine smoke.²
- Taking steps to eliminate outdoor tobacco and e-cigarette use promotes health equity for all by de-normalizing unhealthy behaviors and establishing community norms that tobacco and e-cigarette use is not accepted behavior.³
- Tobacco smoke is one of the most common asthma triggers. Children with asthma who are exposed to secondhand smoke are at risk for more severe and frequent asthma attacks, which can be fatal.⁴

WHY IT MATTERS

- Heavy nicotine use can prime adolescent brains for future substance use.¹¹
- One in 15 Virginians currently have asthma, and that number is increasing.¹⁰
- Over 125,000 youth in VA currently have asthma.
 - Nearly 1 in 5 students went to the emergency room or urgent care center last year because of their asthma.¹⁰
- Litter from cigarettes and nicotine vapor products liquid poses an ingestion risk for young children. Ingesting discarded cigarettes or cigarette butts can cause vomiting, tremors, weakness, unresponsiveness, and may lead to respiratory arrest and death.⁵
 - Ingesting discarded nicotine liquid used for e-cigarettes can cause vomiting, a racing heart, difficulty breathing, and even death—a teaspoon of concentrated liquid nicotine can be fatal for toddlers 26 pounds and under.⁶
- People exposed to second-hand aerosol smoke produced by e-cigarettes have shown similar nicotine absorption levels similar to passive smokers.⁷
- E-cigarettes do not produce just water vapor. [e-cigs emit] "harmful chemicals like diacetyl, heavy metals like nickel and lead, and even benzene, the stuff that comes out of your exhaust pipe."^{8,9}
 - Dangerous metal particles such as chromium are found in vape clouds and the toxic metal can build in your lungs over time.¹²

ShareTheAirVA.com





PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD YOUR MUNICIPALITY OR COUNTY TO THE SHARE THE AIR SIGN-ON LETTER

_____ is committed to providing a 100% tobacco-free and vape-free parklands, park facilities, and open public spaces in order to provide a clean, healthy, and safe environment for all Virginians.

Signing this letter is self-enforcing and voluntary. No tobacco nor use of any electronic smoking device is allowed on publicly owned parklands, park facilities, and open public spaces.

As part of this agreement, the signee agrees to:

- Establish voluntary compliance to prohibit tobacco and electronic smoking device use on parklands, park facilities, open public spaces, all enclosed and designated areas, including common areas, playgrounds, and shelters.
- Enforce the tobacco and e-cigarette-free voluntary policy when violations occur. If a person is in violation of the voluntary compliance, an owner, manager, or park employee will direct that person to extinguish (or turn off, if electronic) the product being smoked or vaped.
- If a person continues to violate the voluntary compliance, an owner, manager or park employee can inform that person that a violation constitutes as a nuisance.
- Park staff will be informed of the voluntary policy and given enforcement statements to help encourage voluntary compliance and will help to distribute flyers informing the community of the voluntary tobacco- and e-cigarette-free policy.
- Post signage in a manner and location that adequately informs the community of the tobacco- and e-cigarette-free policy.
- Advertise and promote this policy on the municipality's website using provided campaign language.

Individual Completing this Form

Effective Date

Title

Phone Number

Email Address

☐ By adding your municipality or county to this sign-on letter, I understand and agree to the following:

- This sign-on letter will be shared with key decision-makers, such as local and state elected officials.
- This sign-on letter may be shared with the media to demonstrate local and statewide concern for this issue.
- This sign-on letter may be shared to, posted on social media, the Share The Air website, or other forms of Share The Air media (such as a video).
- This sign-on letter will use your logo (if provided) to showcase your city/ town/ county's concern. Your logo may also be shown on Share The Air presentations showcasing the organizations who have signed on to the letter.

ShareTheAirVA.com

Discuss the ARPA funding update and remaining additions –

Discuss the Legislative Agenda, proposed City Charter update, and 2% School Tax -

Discuss the City Council Calendar for December -

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There being no further business, Council Member --- made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

LC Jones, Mayor