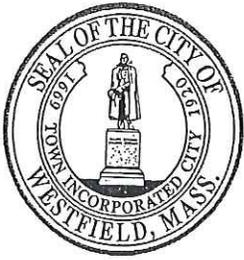


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City of Westfield, Massachusetts
Health Department

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AUG 10 2016
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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Board of Health Meeting
June 8, 2016

Present: Juanita Carnes, Chair Michael Paquette Teresa Mitchell, M.D.

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting were accepted as printed. Under public participation Deborah Kenefick and Stephen Birrell were present representing Smoke-4-Less.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Joseph Rouse read Westfield, MA Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-258-Miscellaneous Regulations, pertaining to open meeting laws. Stephen Birrell of Smoke-4-Less addressed the Board with regard to compliance of State regulations. He stated that he attempted to file for the manufacture of cigarettes with the Commonwealth of MA, however, his \$25,000 check was returned because he did not qualify. Mr. Birrell indicated that the roll-your-own cigarette machine at his establishment can only be used by members of a private club.

Deborah Kenefick, of Smoke-4-Less, informed the Board that the only individuals who can use the roll-your-own cigarette machine are adult members of a private club, over the age of 21, and that no minors would be allowed to use the machine. Mr. Rouse advised everyone that the attorneys on both sides were in discussions to develop a decision on the matter.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Immunization Exemption Discussion – Nurse Debra Mulvenna began by reviewing with the Board the discussion from the February Board of Health meeting which included the number of students claiming an immunization exemption. She advised the Board that she, along with Health Director, Joseph Rouse, met with Liz Flaherty, Health and Safety Coordinator from Westfield Public Schools last month. Nurse Debra presented the Board with copies of documents that were discussed at that meeting. These included MA Department of Public Health’s Immunization Program Interpretation of School immunization law and MA Department of Public Health Immunization Exemptions and Vaccine Preventable Disease Exclusion Guidelines in School Settings. The law states

that medical exemptions must be presented at the beginning of each school year and MA Department of Public Health recommends also requesting religious exemptions on an annual basis. Nurse Mulvenna presented the Board with a copy of the most current school letter and Public School Handbook page that address immunization requirements for children. She also presented a draft of a proposed new letter to parents from the Health Department which reflects changing a onetime submission of religious exemption documentation to a yearly requirement. The letter also addresses exclusion of children during disease outbreaks. Nurse Mulvenna stated she spoke with MA Department of Public Health's immunization program about these changes and that a favorable response was received. In addition, she reported that discussion of change regarding policy is occurring at the State level. A motion was made and seconded for the endorsement of a policy change which would require the submission of immunization religious exemption forms annually rather than on a one-time basis, replicating those recommendations of the Commonwealth.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes – Yes
Mitchell – Yes
Paquette – Yes

All in favor, the motion was declared passed.

Law Department Opinion on “Roll Your Own” Establishments – The Law Department has not yet submitted an Opinion on this matter.

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES:

Tobacco Compliance Check Results – Of the 48 establishments checked, only 4 failed (BP on Franklin Ave.; Meadows Market; Country Mart II and the Southwick Rd. Shell Station). One 19-year-old, one 20-year-old and two 17-year olds conducted this test, along with either a police officer or Health official. Each establishment selling to an underage “smoker” was given a violation notice and fined \$100; two of which have already paid the fine. Cards were sent to those establishments that refused to sell to the minors thanking them for their compliance. Another inspection will be conducted sometime after the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Mobile Food Regulations – The Department has been monitoring and licensing mobile food truck activity. All vendors are being regularly inspected for full compliance with state and local regulations.

Farmer's Market – The Department has been working closely with the Farmer's Market to ensure that all participating vendors are appropriate for the venue and compliant with regulatory standards.

With no further items on the agenda to discuss, Ms. Carnes adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes approved by:





/cam

Next anticipated meeting date: August 10, 2016