

SERVICES COMMITTEE SUMMARY

DECEMBER 4, 2007

Mr. Ellinger chaired the committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. All committee members were in attendance. CM Gorton and Dr. Stevens were present also.

I. Smoking Ban in Hospitals

CM James handed out a press release from Kentucky Hospital Association and an article that was in the Lexington Herald Leader. She stated she had several questions as to whether this item would come forward since hospitals have made a decision to make all of their campuses tobacco free by November 20, 2008. She stated she felt there was a need to have the item in committee for full discussion.

Dr. Omer Shedd, Cardiology Associates, did a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. He stated they want to promote healthcare. He stated himself and other doctors started talking to hospital administrators about coming up with a way to make the campuses smoke free. He stated after they discussed presenting this to the committee the hospital administration became very interested in it. Dr. Shedd stated then a few weeks later the Kentucky Hospital Association came up with coalition to ban smoking in all the local hospitals. He stated he would like the council to help support them in their effort.

Dr. Elizabeth Cobb, Kentucky Hospital Association, stated they have been hearing this issue for about a year. She stated the hospitals in the Lexington area have formed a Tobacco Free Healthcare Collaborative and have welcomed all hospitals in the state to join. She stated they are sharing resources and education as they all move forward to adopt the tobacco free campuses on November 20, 2008. Dr. Cobb stated there are 8 hospitals that have made the announcements about going tobacco free.

CM Blues asked if other medical institutions will be involved with this.

Dr. Cobb stated they have not had any non hospital clinics sign on yet. She stated any property or buildings owned by a hospital that is planning on implementing the policy will go under it as well.

Dr. Melinda Rowe, Fayette County Health Dept., thanked the Council for passing the smoking ordinance. She stated this is the next logical step to make our city healthier. She stated they support this effort.

CM Gorton asked how many hospitals are there involved with the Kentucky Hospital Association.

Dr. Cobb stated there are 127 hospitals.

CM Gorton asked how the information has been disbursed to the hospitals about the new collaborative.

Dr. Cobb stated it started late in 2006 when they started preparing a resource kit for hospitals wanting to adopt a tobacco free policy. She stated this is on their website and is updated regularly. She stated it is presented at the KHA meetings they hold twice a year. She stated they have been giving information to hospitals as well.

CM Gorton asked if this would include the new UK parking garage.

Dr. Cobb stated she can not speak to what each hospital will do. She stated the idea is that all the property owned by a hospital would be tobacco free.

CM Gorton asked if this is a state law in Arkansas.

Dr. Shedd stated it is a state law in Arkansas that was passed in October 2005.

CM Gorton asked how it is enforced.

Dr. Shedd stated he can not speak specifically to how they actually enforce it. He stated St Joseph has hired a security officer to enforce this.

CM Gorton asked if the Tobacco Free Collaborative has talked to state legislatures.

Dr. Cobb stated no they have not.

CM Gorton stated it would seem to her that it would be a good idea to pursue it at the state level if enough hospitals are involved in the collaborative.

Dr. Cobb stated there are several hospitals in Eastern Ky that are involved with being tobacco free. She stated by the end of the year they will probably have 40 to 50 hospitals that will have signed on.

Dr. Stevens stated he sees no reason to pass legislation on this. He stated he would support the resolution that he just received.

CM Lane asked what the current smoke ordinance states.

Dr. Stevens stated in any enclosed space you can not smoke. CM James stated she is hearing there is a concern for the smokers as well and she applauds those efforts. She stated she has heard some concerns about health insurance covering medications to help kick the habit. CM James asked KHA and the hospitals that part of the negotiations with healthcare for employees to try and make this part of the contract and push pharmaceutical companies to offer those pharmaceuticals that will help get people off the tobacco habit. CM James stated in the proposed resolution that was passed around she has received a request to strengthen the 5th paragraph by saying "to regulate smoking and support" instead of "to regulate smoking and wishes to support".

A motion by CM James "to move what is in front of you as a resolution to go forward to council for a vote", seconded by CM Myers, passed without dissent.

CM Ellinger stated the motion will include the change in the 5th paragraph from "wishes to" to "and".

CM James request Elizabeth come back in October 2008 and report out as to how things have been going.

II. Transit Buses on Local Residential Streets

CM Blevins stated the issue before the committee is having regular bus routes down a residential street. CM Blevins gave the committee an example of a residential street (Spring Ridge) with regular bus routes. He stated the distance from curb to curb is 27 feet which leaves a little over 13 feet between cars. He stated it is a tight fit when a bus goes through. He stated the residents have asked the bus route be rerouted away from this street. CM Blevins asked if there is anyway to restrict bus routes away from truly residential streets. CM Blevins asked where the list of streets in the packet came from.

Paul Schoninger stated the list came from the transportation section of the Division of Planning. He stated it is a list of local streets that LexTran goes over.

Brad Frazier, Traffic Engineering, stated residential is the location where the road is with houses. He stated local destination is the characteristics of a road. He stated collector streets are typically wider. He stated current ordinances stipulate that parking is permitted on both sides of the street as long as there is a minimum of 10' width for pass through.

CM Blevins stated he wants to look at dedicated bus routes going down narrow residential streets. He stated there are about 78 streets listed in the packet some of these streets are commercial.

The committee heard from Elizabeth Johnson a resident of Spring Ridge Dr. She stated buses are speeding down the street. She stated this is a safety concern due to kids playing in the area. She stated she has called the bus station repeatedly. Ms Johnson stated residents on Spring Ridge signed a petition to have the bus route removed from their street.

Terri Garcia Crews, LexTran, did a PowerPoint presentation for the committee. She stated they want to be good community partners. She stated they have to go through some particular corridors.

The committee heard from a LexTran Board member who is a bus rider.

Joseph David, Lexington Area MPO, did a PowerPoint presentation for the committee regarding LexTran routes.

CM Blevins stated there is a list of approximately 78 streets in the packet that come under local. He stated he hoped via the Traffic Engineering definition to get a much smaller list. CM Blevins stated he will work with LexTran and other interested people to see what they can come up with.

CM James stated about 5 or 6 roads in the packet are 1st district streets and she does not want those considered for removing routes from.

CM DeCamp stated they should come down hard on those bus drivers speeding. He stated for public safety reasons we should have parking on one side of the street without a petition.

CM Blues asked if it would be possible to impose stricter speed limits for buses on a residential street.

Ms. Crews stated they take speeding very serious and has supervisors out monitoring the speeds of their buses. She stated with 28 checks they had one violation.

Mr. Frazier stated they have a right to limit parking on both sides if it becomes a public safety issue.

CM McChord stated they are hearing from neighbors can somebody slow this traffic down. He asked how we can put money into traffic engineering to solve some of these problems for neighbors. He stated an immediate solution can be selective enforcement.

A motion by CM McChord for the Chair to establish an ad hoc committee to address issue of speeding throughout neighborhoods, failed due to lack of a second.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

DRAFT 11-30-07

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF CENTRAL BAPTIST HOSPITAL, ST. JOSEPH HEALTHCARE, UK HEALTHCARE ALBERT B. CHANDLER HOSPITAL, UK HEALTHCARE GOOD SAMARITAN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TOBACCO-FREE HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE SMOKING FROM HOSPITAL CAMPUSES AS WELL AS FACILITIES OWNED OR LEASED BY THE HOSPITALS.

Whereas, statistics indicate that Kentucky has the highest smoking rate in the United States and that the state's incidence and death rates for cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and other cancer-related diseases exceed the national average; and

Whereas, earlier this year the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations recommended that health care facilities adopt smoke free campuses; and

Whereas, Central Baptist Hospital, St. Joseph Healthcare, UK HealthCare Albert B. Chandler Hospital and UK HealthCare Good Samaritan are joining with hospitals in Paris, Versailles, Maysville and Georgetown to found the Tobacco-free Healthcare Collaborative; and

Whereas, the Tobacco-free Healthcare Collaborative is committed to going tobacco-free by eliminating smoking from the hospital campuses as well as any facility owned or leased by the hospitals; and

Whereas, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government passed Ordinance No. 171-2003, effective April 27, 2004, to regulate smoking and ~~wish to~~ support the Tobacco-free Healthcare Collaborative in its efforts to become tobacco-free.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 – That the Council of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government supports the efforts of Central Baptist Hospital, St. Joseph Healthcare, UK HealthCare Albert B. Chandler Hospital, UK HealthCare Good Samaritan and the other members of the Tobacco-free Healthcare Collaborative in their efforts to eliminate smoking from hospital campuses as well as facilities owned or leased by the hospitals.

Section 2 – That this Resolution shall become effective on the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLISHED:

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