

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-42

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ALL TOBACCO PRODUCT USE ON, OR INSIDE, SALINE COUNTY PROPERTY."

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the single most significant cause of preventable cancer and deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, health cost are rising causing budget strains on county health care cost. Smoke is full of cancer-causing chemicals that damage ones health, causes lung cancer, throat and sinus cancer. It increases the chances of getting breast cancer, can damage the lining of the arteries, cause heart disease, pneumonia, bronchitis, respiratory infections and asthma; and

WHEREAS, a mistrial in March 2007 occurred and it was reported that smokers congregating near the courtroom, causing second-hand smoke to filter into the deliberation area, may have played a role in the jurors wanting not to deliberate as to escape the second hand smoke.

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Division of Health (Saline County Health Unit) desires county-owned buildings, grounds, and vehicles to be tobacco product-free and believes that the Saline County Courthouse and Saline County Health Unit should be symbols of public health and thus discouraging all use of tobacco products of all types; and

WHEREAS, the State Division of Health is offering a smoking cessation program for county employees to support and coach the employee with "AR Quit Now" and to provide nicotine replacement patches free of charge to county employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Quorum Court of Saline County, Arkansas:

Article 1. Due to the acknowledged hazards arising from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, it shall be the policy of Saline County Government to provide a smoke free environment and campus for all employees and visitors. This policy covers the smoking of any tobacco product and the use of smokeless or "spit" tobacco and applies to employees, non-employees and visitors who are on or in any property owned by Saline County.

Article 2. There will be no smoking in any Saline County vehicle at any time. There will be no smoking on any county property, grounds, lawn, shelters, steps or any property owned or leased by the county. The only exceptions allowed are parking lots where personal vehicles are parked. Smoking on these parking lots is prohibited within fifty (50) feet of any entrance to the building.

Article 3. Smoking on County roads is excluded from this ordinance.

Article 4. Employees who smoke shall refrain from smoking throughout the workday or go to a designated parking area or non county-owned or leased property to use tobacco. Elected officials shall discuss the issue of smoking breaks and the locations allowed for smoking breaks with their staff and notify all employees of this regulation. Together they will develop effective solutions that do not interfere with the productivity of the staff, but does follow this regulation.

Article 5. PENALTIES. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

Article 6. It is hereby ascertained and declared that this Ordinance be adopted to address this public health issue.


DATE: June 19, 2007

Approved:



Lanny Fite, Saline County Judge

ATTEST:



FREDDY BURTON
SALINE COUNTY CLERK

SPONSORS:

Owen Bullock
Tom Lish
Jerry Landreth

(SEAL)