



August 2, 2021

Atlanta Chapter ASHRAE
180 Technology Parkway
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr.
Augusta Commission
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, GA 30901

Sent via email to: mayordavis@augustaga.gov

Re: Smoke-Free Exemption for Cigar Bars and Lounges in Augusta, GA

Dear Mayor Davis,

I am writing regarding the proposed exemption to the city's smoke-free ordinance that would allow smoking in certain cigar bars and lounges. ASHRAE, founded in 1894 and headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 55,000 members worldwide (and 1,000 in Georgia) focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

I urge you to consider the health effects of indoor smoking. As a technical Society developing standards for indoor environmental quality, **ASHRAE holds the position that the only means of avoiding health effects and eliminating indoor environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure is to ban all smoking activity inside and near buildings.** This position is supported by the conclusions of health authorities that any level of ETS exposure leads to adverse health effects and therefore:

- The building and its systems can reduce only odor and discomfort but cannot eliminate exposure when smoking is allowed inside or near a building.
- Even when all practical means of separation and isolation of smoking areas are employed, adverse health effects from exposure in non-smoking spaces in the same building cannot be eliminated.
- Neither dilution ventilation, air distribution (e.g., "air curtains") nor air cleaning should be relied upon to control ETS exposure.

- For multifamily buildings, complete smoking bans inside and near them protects nonsmoking adults and children.
- Further research is needed from cognizant health authorities on the health effects of involuntary exposure in the indoor environment from smoking cannabis, using hookahs, using electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), and engaging in other activities commonly referred to as vaping or using e-cigarettes.

Again, ASHRAE does **not** support an exemption to the smoke-free ordinance for cigar bars and lounges. I am attaching a copy of the ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke, updated in July 2020, which more thoroughly discusses this matter. ASHRAE would be happy to address any questions you or the Augusta Commission might have, and to offer technical assistance from relevant technical committees within ASHRAE. Please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

For more information on ASHRAE and its standards, programs and resources, please visit www.ashrae.org.

Sincerely,



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