



City and County of Denver

Carol Boigon

Councilwoman At-large

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Council Committees

Chair, General Government

Vice-Chair, Finance

Blueprint Denver

FasTracks

Special Assignments

Age Matters Initiative Task Force

Board of Employee Assistance

Colorado Counties, Inc.

Colorado Municipal League- Policy Council

Denver Preschool Program Board of Directors

Early Childhood Education Council

Metro Area County Commissioners

National Association of Counties- Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee

Welfare Reform Board

Community Boards

Chair, Great Education Colorado Board of Directors

Colorado State Board of Human Services

Mile High Montessori Community Leadership Board

Metro Crisis Triage Initiative Board

June 17, 2010

Name, Title
Address
City, State Zip

RE: Smoking Ban Around City Hospitals

Dear _____:

As you may know, on August 18, 2008, the Denver City Council passed the smoking ban around City hospitals. I sponsored this ordinance, Denver Revised Municipal Code §38-8, effective Nov. 20, 2008, to ban smoking on the public right-of-way, including sidewalks, tree lawns, and alleys adjoining hospitals and other hospital-owned properties or properties leased by any hospital in the City and County of Denver. You all worked with me to craft it. The law will expire on Nov. 20, 2010, unless Denver City Council acts to extend it.

To help me prepare to continue the ban before its sunset date this fall, I would like to know your views and your experience with the ban. I am asking for this information from all Denver hospitals. Please answer the following questions about your facility's experience with the smoking ban:

1. Was the ban effective in eliminating smoking on the public right-of-way adjoining your hospital and all its relevant buildings, especially near patient entrances and exits?
2. Have you had any concerns – negative or positive – about impacts of the ban? Please explain.
3. Has your facility received any comments from patients and/or visitors on the smoking ban? Please be specific. How have you have responded?
4. Has your facility received any comments from neighbors about patients, visitors or staff leaving hospital property to smoke and to intrude on the neighborhood with noise, garbage, loitering, and so on? Please be specific.
5. How did you implement your good neighbor policy? What worked and what would you change? Please send me a copy of the policy.
6. Based on your experiences over the past 18 months, do you have suggestions to improve the ban on smoking around City hospitals?

Carol Boigon, Smoking ban around Denver hospitals
June 17, 2010
Page 2 of 2

7. Has the ban helped you to better serve your patients? Has it affected your professional ratings on hospital quality?

8. Is there anything else you think I should know about the smoking ban around City hospitals?

Please respond by **July 31, 2010**, either by email to Carol.Boigon@denvergov.org or by regular mail to me at Denver City Council, 1437 Bannock Street, Room 451, Denver, Colorado 80202. My aide, Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, will call to follow up on this letter.

Thank you for your assistance. It has been a pleasure to work with you on this important project.

Sincerely,

Carol Boigon
Denver City Council Member At-large

Cc: Hospital smoking ban task force members