

Bill 1266 - Hours of Operation for Hookah Lounges



• ATHMAR PARK • BAKER • COLLEGE VIEW • OVERLAND PARK • PLATT PARK • RUBY HILL • VALVERDE • WEST WASH PARK



What does Bill 1266 do?

- Prohibits smoking between the hours of midnight to 7 am on the premise and on the public right-of-way
- Creates a pathway for responsible owners to continue operating hookah bars while eliminating the outcrowd issues
- Cleans up and clarifies language in the Denver code



Who does this legislation impact?

- Only hookah bars
- Does not impact cigar-tobacco bars, private residences, or other exemptions
- Alcohol and marijuana consumption sites are regulated in different ordinances.



Why is this legislation necessary?

- Currently there are no regulations of hours of operation on hookah bars
- Outcrowd issues with neighborhood after bars close at 2 am
 - Gun violence, public intoxication, fighting, urination, parking issues such as peeling out or blocking streets, bottle throwing, etc.
- Bad behavior of patrons is difficult to tie back to owners of the establishment
- Is taxing on DPD resources from 12-6 am forcing delay in response time for other calls



Support from the Hookah Community

- The National Hookah Community Association and Local Hookah Owners support responsible regulation of hookah bars so that responsible operators can continue to operate and irresponsible businesses can be controlled.
- Letters of support are uploaded in Granicus.



Hookah regulation in other Cities

- Many cities have closed hookah lounges due to anti-smoking laws.
- Seattle Mayor proposed an across-the-board enforcement action on all of Seattle's hookah lounges due to violence in and around the establishment
- Somali community advocated for earlier closing times of hookah lounges in Columbus due to addiction and violence concerns
- The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (Tampa, FL) passed an ordinance that will require hookah lounges to close from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. daily in the interest of public safety.
- Baltimore County Council passed a bill that mandates hookah lounges be closed between midnight and 6 a.m.



Questions?

