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## Beloit City Council Passes Vaping Ordinance

**Sept. 4, 2019** The Beloit City Council passed an ordinance on Tuesday that limits the use of vaping products, including banning the possession of vaping/e-cigarette devices by minors, after a group of residents connected with Youth2Youth asked the council to look at local legislation to address health risks associated with electronic delivery devices.

The ordinance prohibits the use of e-cigarette devices in the same areas where the smoking of cigarettes and cigars is banned. These prohibited areas include all enclosed spaces that are places of employment or public places, including child care facilities, schools, health care facilities, theaters, restaurants and bars, retail establishments, government buildings, and more. Using e-cigarettes in sports arenas, bus shelters and other public transportation facilities are prohibited in this ordinance.

The ordinance change also prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to minors, as well as possession of an e-cigarette device by a minor.

The forfeiture for a minor in possession of an e-cigarette device is \$50 plus court costs; the fine for all other violations is \$100 plus court costs.

The ordinance goes into effect on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019. It was passed on the first day of school with the intention of keeping these devices out of the hands of children and teens.

“The City is concerned about the health impacts of vaping on our youth who are unaware of the risks associated with the use of e-cigarettes,” said City Manager Lori Curtis Luther. “This ordinance sends a clear message to our youth that these devices are not safe. We’re hoping this ordinance change will lead to proactive prevention so the city does not have to take enforcement action against those selling these devices to minors or to minors in possession of these devices.”

Preliminary studies indicate that non-users can be exposed to the same potentially harmful chemicals as users, including nicotine, ultrafine particles and volatile organic compounds, which could be especially problematic for children, pregnant women, and

people with heart disease. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has confirmed 32 cases of lung disease connected to vaping and the City of Milwaukee Health Department has been warning about the impacts of e-cigarettes with 16 individuals being hospitalized with chemical pneumonia due to vaping.

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