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News Release

For Immediate Release

Six businesses cited for violating smoking ordinance

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department has issued 19 tickets to six Springfield businesses for violations of the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2011.

The businesses are:

- **Alibi Room**, 2109 N. Glenstone Ave. – Two violations
- **Captain's Table**, 1109 E. Commercial St. – Three violations
- **Frisco Tap Room**, 504 E. Commercial St. – Four violations
- **Last Call**, 1310 E. Kearney St. – Four violations
- **Moonshiners**, 2535 W. Olive St. – Four violations
- **Ruthie's**, 400 E. Commercial St. – Two violations

This course of action was taken after complaints were received from the public about violations at these locations and after health department staff made contact and issued warnings.

"We followed the process we said we would," said Clay Goddard, Assistant Director of Health. "We said we would give business owners every opportunity to comply with the law, with education during the first six months and warnings after that. It appears that these businesses are knowingly violating the law."

Three types of violations were cited: Employee smoking, patrons smoking and ashtrays present. A fourth type of violation, lack of proper "No Smoking" signage, could have been cited in some cases but were merely noted instead. Free signage was provided to each of the establishments lacking it.

With the tickets issued, the matter is now in the hands of the Springfield Municipal Court, with court dates anticipated sometime in the coming months.

A person, who owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment and who fails to comply with the ordinance shall be subject to a up to \$100 for a first violation; up to \$200 for a second violation within one year; and up to \$500 for each additional violation within one year. Additionally, a violation of this ordinance by a person who owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment may result in the suspension or revocation of the establishment's business permit issued by the City.

The Smoke-Free Air Act was first passed by Springfield voters in April 2011 and was re-affirmed by the voters in 2012 by an even wider 64-36 margin. The law was also upheld by the Southern Missouri Court of Appeals in 2012. The law prohibits smoking in:

- All enclosed places of employment
- All enclosed public places
- Within five feet of outside entrances, operable windows and ventilation systems where smoking is prohibited.

More information about the law, including an FAQ list and the full text of the law, can be found on the City of Springfield's website at: www.springfieldmo.gov/smokefree/

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