

February 09, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Petition Aims to Modify Smoking Ordinance

Opponents of the indoor smoking ban voters approved in April 2011 turned in an initiative petition to the City Clerk's Office this morning that aims at returning smoking to certain businesses and spaces.

Dave Myers, of Oldfield, Mo., said the group gathered more than 4,000 signatures. Only 2,101 must be certified as Springfield registered voters residing in the City limits for the petition to advance to City Council.

The City Clerk's Office now has 20 days to certify the signatures. If too few are found to be valid, petitioners will have 10 days to gather more.

If the petition is certified, City Council has the option of adopting it as written or sending it to voters at the next possible municipal election, which could be June. If there are no other issues on the ballot, the City will carry the full cost of the election, which is estimated to be about \$100,000.

For more information, contact: Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement, at 417-864-1009.