November 19, 2015

To: All Bars, Nightclubs, Restaurants, Lounges, etc.

Re: Smoking and the use of Nicotine Delivery Devices (e-hookahs, e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-liquids, etc.)

Dear Owner/Manager:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the existing laws and regulations governing the use of the products referenced above in the city of Lawrence (it doesn’t change or replace the existing regulations):

1. Smoking of cigarettes, cigars, regular pipes, and traditional hookah pipes is prohibited in enclosed public and work places in the city;
2. Smoking of cigarettes, cigars, and regular pipes is prohibited in outdoor patios attached to “smoking bars.” (please check the definition of smoking bars in the attached regulation);
3. Smoking of traditional hookah pipes (heated by burning charcoal or some other form of combustion) is prohibited in outdoor patios attached to any establishment regulated by the Lawrence Board of Health;
4. The use of electronic hookahs and similar products are currently not prohibited in establishments and their outdoor patios. However, as the sale of flavored liquid or substance used in these products is restricted, a Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Product Sales Permit issued by Inspectional Services and state cigarette license issued by DOR are required);
5. Continued use of electronic hookahs without being issued a permit from the city will result in penalties ranging from $100 to $300 and suspension or revocation of your license to operate. REMEMBER: A violation of these Board of Health regulations automatically result in a violation of the Licensing Commission rules for the maintenance of your liquor license;

Very Important! Allowing patrons to bring their own e-hookah flavored liquid/substances will likely result in further regulatory and enforcement measures by the Lawrence Board of Health.

Sincerely,

Cesar Pungrum, MM, JD
Director, Tobacco Control

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