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City spends to enforce smoking ban

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City Editor Print View

The lawsuit against West Lafayette has not been stomped out.

The plaintiffs suing the city over its smoking ban have one month to reply to the city's claim that the lawsuit is unjust. Attorneys from both sides of the suit met with a judge Monday morning.

Harry's Chocolate Shop, in conjunction with an employee of Wabash Yacht Club, believe the ordinance, slated to take effect July 1, violates the state constitution. Representing Attorney Thomas Herr said the ordinance allows for smoking within certain establishments. He said that is differential treatment of businesses.

The city responded to the lawsuit last week, stating that there can be exceptions in some cases. Pam Hermes, attorney representing the city, said there are distinguishing characteristics between the two establishments.

While the plaintiffs' attorney prepares the reply, West Lafayette is launching an advertisement campaign.

The city spent a \$100,000 grant promoting the new ordinance through television ads, T-shirts and pamphlets. It was funded by Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation. TV ads should begin running today.

City Councilor Patti O'Callaghan, who proposed the smoke-free ordinance, said money will also pay for no-smoking window decals for bar and restaurant owners.


"One of the requirements of the ordinance is for businesses to put up a sign that says 'no smoking,'" she said in a Monday press conference. "Essentially, all they have to do is take away their ashtrays and put up these signs."

Julie Novak, associate dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences, reiterated the health benefits as the city draws one day closer to the ban.


"One of the most important decisions college students, during their teen years, can make is not to smoke," said Novak. "We know from research that Purdue students (on average) smoke fewer than five cigarettes per day. They tend to be social smokers."

Novak said the ban in bars and restaurants will reduce this social smoking, therefore reducing overall rates. Whether this is true could be seen as early as July.

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 The Wabash Yacht Club and Harry's Chocolate Shop filed a lawsuit Tuesday regarding West Lafayette's smoking ban.

 Shawn Casseday, a sophomore at West Lafayette High School, holds his sign up in protest to the war. Casseday, members of Purdue Organization for Labor Equality, and the Lafayette Area Peace Coalition protested silently on the steps of the Tippecanoe County courthouse.

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