



Farooq Mehboob
2022-2023 ASHRAE President

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May 22, 2023

Mayor Thomas Arceneaux
Shreveport City Council
505 Travis St.
Shreveport, LA 71101

Re: Proposed City Ordinance 46

Dear Mayor Arceneaux and Members of the Shreveport City Council,

I am writing regarding proposed City Ordinance 46, which would create an exemption for casinos to the city's existing indoor smoking ban. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 53,000 members worldwide focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

I urge you to consider the health effects of this proposed exemption for indoor smoking in casinos. **As a technical Society developing standards for indoor environmental quality, ASHRAE holds the position that the only means of avoiding health effects and eliminating indoor environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure is to ban all smoking activity inside and near buildings.** This position is supported by the conclusions of health authorities that any level of ETS exposure leads to adverse health effects and therefore:

- The building and its systems can reduce only odor and discomfort but cannot eliminate exposure when smoking is allowed inside or near a building.
- Even when all practical means of separation and isolation of smoking areas are employed, adverse health effects from exposure in non-smoking spaces in the same building cannot be eliminated.
- Neither dilution ventilation, air distribution (e.g., "air curtains") nor air cleaning should be relied upon to control ETS exposure.
- Further research is needed from cognizant health authorities on the health effects of involuntary exposure in the indoor environment from smoking cannabis, using hookahs,

using electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), and engaging in other activities commonly referred to as vaping or using e-cigarettes.

I am attaching a copy of the ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke, which more thoroughly discusses this matter. ASHRAE would be happy to address any questions you might have or to offer technical assistance through our experts from relevant technical committees within ASHRAE. Please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

For more information on ASHRAE and its standards, programs and resources, please visit www.ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Mehboob', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Farooq Mehboob
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Enclosure