

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants and Projects Manager
Through: Chandra Nicholson, Director of Economic Development and Planning
Date: September 11, 2013
Subject: Submission of an Application to the Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control for a Technical Assistance Grant to Educate the Public on the Benefits of a Smoke-Free Air Policy

REQUEST:

The Economic Development and Planning Department requests City Council authorization to submit a grant application to the Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control in collaboration with the Mississippi Municipal League and Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation to provide technical assistance funds to educate the public on the benefits of having a smoke-free air policy in public places.

BACKGROUND:

The Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control is currently soliciting proposals from municipalities that are interested in educating their constituents on the benefits of a comprehensive community smoke-free policy. One of the four primary goals of the Office of Tobacco Control is to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke in public environments (i.e. worksites, restaurants, and other public places). Each year over 500 non-smoking Mississippians die as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

DISCUSSION:

Proposals are accepted from any city or town in the state of Mississippi that does not currently have a comprehensive smoke-free policy. The City of Gautier may apply for up to \$5,000 from the Mississippi State Department of Health to educate the public on the health consequences of secondhand smoke exposure and the benefits of smoke-free environments through public meetings and forums. Other eligible grant expenses include printing and signage. If grant funding is awarded, the City will be reimbursed regardless whether or not a smoke-free ordinance is passed. If the City Council does pass a smoke-free policy, this funding can also be used for toolkits and signage for businesses.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Economic Development and Planning Department staff recommends that City Council authorize submission of a technical assistance grant application to the Mississippi Department of Health as outlined above. City Council may:

1. authorize submission of a technical assistance grant application to the Mississippi Department of Health as outlined above; or
2. authorize submission of a technical assistance grant application with changes to the Mississippi Department of Health; or
3. disapprove submission of a technical assistance grant application to the Mississippi Department of Health.

ATTACHMENT(S):

N/A