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Tobacco stores will be limited to Route 46 in Garfield

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All tobacco retail establishments in Garfield will be designated to a business zone on Route 46 and be restricted from opening up within 1,000 ft. of a school or church, according to an ordinance that was introduced at the Jan. 28 council meeting.

Mayor Joseph Delaney said he asked the city attorney to write the ordinance after a tobacco store opened up on Harrison Avenue next to a school. Delaney said he doesn't support that kind of business, especially opening up so close to a school.

"We are encouraging antismoking, especially for teens, and then someone opens up a business promoting smoking," Delaney said. "I'm pro business but not when it encourages our youth to smoke."

Delaney said he is still checking with the city attorney to see if the existing smoke shop will be affected with the new ordinance.

The ordinance passed on introduction with the full support of the council and is expected to be formally adopted later this month.

"Studied have shown that smoking is one of the leading causes of cancer and heart disease in the United States," the ordinance said. "The mayor and council believe it is in the best interest of the city to regulate the location of tobacco retail establishments."

The ordinance defines a tobacco retail establishment where at least 51 percent of retail business is the sale of tobacco products and accessories in which the sale of other products is merely incidental.

The ordinance will limit tobacco retail establishments to open in a business zone located on Route 46. The business can not be within 1,000 ft. of a church or house of worship, a daycare center or a school. The business must also comply with the zoning requirements for the B-1 district as established by chapter 341 zoning by Garfield.

The city council already took a stand against smoking last year when it adopted an ordinance prohibiting smoking in all public parks and recreation facilities owned or leased by the city. The ordinance included all city property owned or leased where the public is invited or individuals gather for recreation activities including any parking areas or driveways.

The ordinance also prohibits smoking in all municipal buildings and within a 35 ft. radius of the front entrance of all municipal buildings, or in any car registered by the city. Each no smoking area will be have no smoking signs and indicate that violators will be subject to a fine.

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