

Hello, I am Deborah Zucker --I live at 3 Shepard Street and am here again - to urge passage of Calendar/Charter Right item #4 – to give you the tools to act and protect the inhabitants of our city from commercial wood-burning and wood-smoke pollution.

I have lived in my home on Shepard Street for over 20 years. There have always been restaurants nearby –which has been a great benefit of this neighborhood – that was - until 16 months ago -when a new restaurant opened and, without informing us, installed commercial wood-burning equipment and 2 new exhausts chimneys –and started spewing out wood smoke.

For those not familiar with the magnitude of the problem —this is NOT a brief whiff of hickory–smoke as you walk by on a snowy day! This is copious amounts of noxious smoke - pouring out –and now being blown out by what sounds like a jet engine—for over 7 hours a day; 6 or 7 days a week. The smoke impacts not just adjacent homes—but homes down the block. And not just individuals with increased vulnerability (due to health or age), -but MANY residents- as well as passers-by.

A policy researcher I know used to say: “**Don’t get mad - get data**”! But it is hard not also to get mad as one learns about the extensive data on the known hazards of wood-smoke. It’s apparently more toxic than equivalent amounts of cigarette smoke– it’s more carcinogenic, its toxic particles remain active longer doing their damage, and their small sizes make them more invasive – into our bodies and our homes.

I have never been a smoker and for the past 16 months I have been involuntarily subjected to breathing in wood-smoke –which, as you heard earlier, is estimated to be the equivalent of thousands of people smoking cigarettes on the roof every night –a roof that is 30 feet from my windows!

This is Cambridge, MA - 2016—

We are not in a place where there is no access to cleaner cooking fuel and cooking methods. And there are MANY, MANY excellent, diverse and successful restaurants in Cambridge –that operate and thrive without causing harm and nuisance to surrounding residents! In fact- there was a very successful restaurant in the same location for over 18 years (Chez Henri)-and before that for over 30 years (Chez Jean).

As a resident of Cambridge:

-I should be able to have a home free from penetrating wood-smoke

- I should be able to open my windows-and walk on the streets and breathe clean-fresh air!

A commercial wood-burning establishment should not be permitted to operate on the backs of the residents that live around it - at the expense of residents’ health and quality of life and the state and value of their homes.

COMMERCIAL WOOD-BURNING HAS NO PLACE NEAR OUR HOMES!!

The Charter Right item #4 is a start –I urge you to adopt it –to get the data and act quickly – to resolve the egregious situations residents are currently facing due to commercial wood-burning – and to prevent others from facing this in the future. Thank You.

WOOD-SMOKE RELATED REFERENCES AND WEBSITES:

1. Environmental Protection Agency: BURN WISE PROGRAM: This site discussed wood-burning and the health and environmental effects of wood-smoke.
<https://www.epa.gov/burnwise/wood-smoke-and-your-health>
2. Washington State Department of Ecology: A brochure summarizing health effects of wood-smoke: including: why wood-smoke is a problem, specifics about what parts of wood smoke are a problem; wood-smoke and cancer; populations most at risk from wood smoke; hidden costs of wood-smoke, among other topics. <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/92046.pdf>
3. WOOD SMOKE POLLUTION: A Different Kind of Secondhand Smoke
Ina Gotlieb, MA, Marin Medicine, The magazine of the Marin Medical Society
Some noted points:
 - In a laboratory study at Louisiana State University, researchers found that hazardous free radicals in wood smoke are chemically active 40 times longer than those from cigarette smoke--so once inhaled, wood smoke will harm the body far longer than cigarette smoke.[6]
 - Other estimates suggest that a single fireplace operating for an hour and burning 10 pounds of wood will generate 4,300 times more carcinogenic polyaromatic hydrocarbons than 30 cigarettes.[7]
 - While pollution from wood burning is harmful to everyone, research has shown that it is particularly dangerous for children. Studies show that wood smoke interferes with normal lung development in infants and children and increases the risk of lower respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia.[8]
 - EPA researchers estimate the lifetime cancer risk from wood smoke to be 12 times greater than from a similar amount of cigarette smoke.[3]<http://www.nbcms.org/about-us/marin-medical-society/magazine/marin-medicine-a-different-kind-of-secondhand-smoke.aspx?pageid=19&tabid=759>
4. WOOD SMOKE BROCHURE (2003): Summary of key points regarding wood-smoke- put together by Burning Issues, a project of Clean Air Revival, Inc., a 501C-3 non profit educational organization registered in California. It collects and disseminates scientific information regarding health effects, economic impacts, and individual actions to reduce and stop solid fuel combustion. <http://burningissues.org/car-www/pdfs/WoodSmBroharris.pdf>
5. Burning Issues Wood Smoke Fact Sheets: Summarizes salient facts regarding wood-smoke from various scientific publications (updated January 2003). <http://burningissues.org/fact-sheet.htm>