

# The Trentonian

## TrashTalk: Proposed ordinance smoke screens Trenton's serious quality of life problems

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I get it. Smoking remains harmful to health and Trenton city council members introduced an ordinance that bans smoking cigarettes, cigars, pipes and even electronic cigarettes in parks, recreational areas, city facilities and inside city vehicles.

Fines range from \$50-\$100 for an initial offense then double and even quadruple for further violations. City health department employees would handle enforcement.

(Cough. Cough. Cough). Sorry. All choked up about such bold legislation. I mean, smoke has this city in the stranglehold of poverty, crime, unsuccessful education, trash, drugs, and piss-poor public urination events.

No doubt those that support this initiative have a valid calling but we do hear nothing about more serious issues. Minimal enforcement allows this city to drown in trash as residents question the honesty of city inspectors.

City officials get information each week about landlords, tenants, properties, businesses and other problems with no response.

Hamilton Ave. businesses allow trash accumulation in shadows of storefronts but never receive tickets for these drastic violations.

The photo on this page represents a daily problem but nothing ever gets done about these injustices.

No smoking areas are understandable but they lurk down the list of items that need our attention. However, maybe this is about vision. Maybe with this no smoking ordinance Trenton skies clear and we identify our urgent issues.

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