

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee Hearing:

I am submitting the following items between me and my City Manager so you can see the difficulty one town is having trying to get their burning ordinance enforced. I was filing environmental complaints with the Attorney General's Office (over 18 complaints on the record in less than a year) because I was so sick of coughing up blood and needing to go to Ann Arbor for help. The Attorney General's office stated that the city of Owosso had to enforce City Ordinance 701. Because the ticketing with this ordinance is at the discretion of the police officer phoned, few get ticketed. Also, I keep a log of fires called in to Central Dispatch, and they do not match what our city says was phoned. Again this is a problem. If the state has a bill, there will be "teeth" for residents to say this law is being broken and I need help. Currently, many are left to suffer. Too many are children. A child with asthma will have a family who over the course of their life will spend a minimum of a million dollars on treatment according to National Institute of Health. Please help so many residents across the state in need of "teeth" when someone is burning.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stechschulte

Phone: 989-723-4084

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: lisa stechschulte <lisastech@yahoo.com>

To: Lisa Stechschulte <lisastech@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2011 10:23 PM

Subject: Stand Up for Clean Air and Less Illness in Owosso on September 6 at 7:30 at City Hall

Hello Everyone, I am writing to ask you to attend the City Council Meeting September 6, 2011 at 7:30p.m. at Owosso's City Hall. Many of you do not know that I have been pretty sick lately because of people burning near my house. I have been in the hospital four times in the last two weeks. All of those times put on oxygen. My last stay lasted four days. I came home Thursday. On Sunday, the neighbor behind my house decided to burn at 3p.m. in the afternoon. Yesterday, Saturday, September 3, 2011, someone in the neighborhood decided to start burning at 9:44p.m. I called with difficulty breathing, asking for help putting out the fire.

My lung doctor, at U of M, Ann Arbor suggested today I leave my house and go to the local library when fires occur. This is hard to do when they are happening at various hours of the day and night, for example 1:35a.m. and the library is closed. We have people that enjoy alcohol and then have fires in their backyard, after they have had some fun. This fun is harming the people in this town. Many are going to U of M for treatment. We have a group called the Citizens for Clean Air and we found a large population of asthmatic children in town, as well as a high rate of cancer in Owosso (thus the \$10 million dollar cancer center). I received the email below from City Manager Don Crawford suggesting I move. I have been a life long resident of Owosso, unlike Mr. Crawford. I do not think I should have to leave town because it is

too toxic for me. If that is the case, it is too dangerous for all of us because of the contaminants in the air. You just do not have symptoms yet--or you do not know medically how you have been impacted.

Dr. Kenneth Rosenman, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Professor and doctor from MSU wrote two letters for our city leaders to read about the harmful effects of burning in Owosso and said it was dangerous for anyone with asthma, heart conditions, children (as their lungs are still developing), and that burning causes cancer. These letters were written in 2008.

Two other doctors, including my pulmonologist wrote letters also asking the City Council to stop the burning because of its harmful effects.

The village of Elsie, not far from Owosso, stopped burning because of the negative health impact it was having in the village. Owosso can do the same thing. How many people will die before Owosso acts?

On September 6 it would be wonderful for people to attend the City Council meeting and let the Council know you are concerned for your health and that of your families. As I stated in my letter below, we need to be able to breathe, we do not need to burn to live. This is wrong on so many levels. If you are able to stand with me on September 6, it would be great for the city to see that the death of George Hebert is not in vain.

George's funeral is Saturday, September 10 at Nelson House Funeral Home. He tried hard with multiple letters and also speaking at City Council meetings. He also attended a hearing the DEQ held in May of 2010. We all thought we were getting clean air on April 1, 2011. We were sadly mistaken. George will not be able to speak at any hearings that are scheduled in Lansing.

I have called the Governor's office multiple times and am told to contact the DEQ. I have spoken to the incredible staff at the DEQ more than some of my own family members. They say it is up to the city to do something. We have to make the city do something before more of our loved ones are ill. If I die, so be it, at least I do so knowing I put up a great fight trying to get the city to see they are literally killing the people of this town. When I look at the death notices, my first thought is, "Could they have lived longer if we did not burn?" Does anyone on the city council think that way? I believe some may because they are hurt by the burning. It is our time to take a stand to stop this harmful toxic cancer causing smoke that lingers in our town every weekend and the beloved Tuesday and Thursday "burn day" and we do not even have the right property lines that are in accordance with the City Ordinance.

According to the City ordinance you are to be a certain number of feet from the property line and the building of the residence. Good luck in my neighborhood. So to make up for it, they say, "put it in the center of the property." I thank God for every day I am alive at this point.

Please find others to attend the meeting on Tuesday, September 6 to support clean air, and healthy families.

I am thanking you ahead of time for caring for the children in this town who had no vote in this archaic burning which is harming all of us, and them (the children) the most. May God help us all for the harm we are causing one another for the selfish right to burn.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Stechschulte

P.S. The city of Owosso created City Ordinance 701 and they are to enforce the ordinance--and since the fires are harming the health of individuals, it is the city's obligation to enforce City Ordinance 701. Please share this with others who are suffering for clean air!

--- On Tue, 8/30/11, lisa stechschulte <lisastech@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: lisa stechschulte <lisastech@yahoo.com>
Subject: Burning Numbers for July Are Wrong in Owosso
To: "Lisa Strangulate" <lisastech@yahoo.com>

Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011, 4:26 PM

Dear Don, Owosso City Council and Others, We, the residents of Owosso have a right to clean air! In Jackson, Michigan a judge did give a restraining order against a man with an outdoor wood boiler and burn barrel because he was harming the health of his neighbor, an Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran and 9/11 rescue worker. So there is state precedent and it has held up in the courts.

Your response is not acceptable. We, the people in this town who are sick will continue to fight until we have clean air. The loss of life of people like Cortney Didur, 28, of stage 4 lung cancer, who did not smoke is unacceptable. You can come up with all the rationalizations that you want, but we the people deserve clean air. You do not have to burn garbage, leaves, brush or whatever

else you want to burn in Owosso to live but you must be able to **Breathe.**

I have been told by the University of Michigan that I am not to be around "environmental smoke" so I will continue to call about fires near my house. The police and fire department are to protect and serve. I am asthmatic and these fires are a threat to my life. In City Ordinance 701 it states in section 13-5 you can call in a fire that is obnoxious. For me these are and it should not be left up to the discretion of the officer, especially one who thinks burning smells good and nostalgic.

We have a right to clean air and we need it to live a healthy life. We do not need to burn to live a healthy life. If you lost the letters from Dr. Rosenman that state the hazards of burning, I would be glad to get them back on your desk. We are losing residents to the cemetery in an alarming fashion at an age much younger than 88. This is hurting the city, state and federal coffers. You may want to rethink about your ideas. If the village of Elsie can say we are stopping burning for health reasons, why can't Owosso get with the 21st century and not worry about 2,600 people's votes when we have over 4000 children whose health is harmed by the burning and they have no say in the toxic dioxin that is giving them asthma and some sadly cancer and other horrible illnesses. May you not get sick from these toxic fumes.

Praying to God Owosso's City Council looks at the big picture and does the right thing for all residents, especially the educated ones who want to make this town the vibrant place it used to be.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Stechschulte

Fighting to Breathe and Live in Toxic Town Owosso--Can't Afford to Move And Shouldn't Have To Move--- On Tue, 8/30/11, Donald D. Crawford <donald.crawford@ci.owosso.mi.us> wrote:

From: Donald D. Crawford <donald.crawford@ci.owosso.mi.us>
Subject: RE: Burning Numbers for July Are Wrong in Owosso
To: "lisa stechschulte" <lisastech@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011, 2:26 PM

I received this and the copy of your other message. I listened to your message on my answering machine and Lori told me about your conversation. I am sorry to hear about your continuing health issues and am glad that you have returned home.

I don't know why all of your messages were not recorded unless 9-1-1 grouped them together.

The city of Owosso has no authority to enforce Section 901 of the Michigan Health Code. To my knowledge, no one--not the Michigan Health Department, the Michigan Attorney General, or anyone else has the authority to act under Section 901 against an individual burning in their back yard. As we have previously discussed that the only possibility would be to get a court to issue an injunction or restraining order against the owners and occupants of specific properties prohibiting them from burning because their burning endangers your health. Is there a judge that would even consider such, if so, would an affirmative decision be upheld by the appellate courts. Personally, I dislike burning ever bit as much as you do. The voters of Owosso have been unwilling to prohibit burning. Will they change? I don't know. In the meantime we must live with the consequences or move. We may see businesses and industries locate elsewhere when decision makers discover that open burning is allowed.

Donald D. Crawford

City Manager

City of Owosso

PH: 989.725.0569

FX: 989.725.0526

Email: donald.crawford@ci.owosso.mi.us

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-----Original Message-----

From: lisa stechschulte [mailto:lisastech@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, August 27, 2011 4:30 AM

To: Donald D. Crawford; Michael T. Compeau

Cc: Lorraine Weckwert; Shelah Hockman; Shelva Cebulski

Subject: Burning Numbers for July Are Wrong in Owosso

August 27, 2011

Dear City Manager Crawford,

I am now home from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor hospital and stunned to learn our city police said there were only 8 calls in July about fires. I phoned in 10 fires myself--and did not waste my time phoning in 2 other fires. A resident at 717 River (2 houses away) was not given a citation for burning, even though I have been in the hospital 4 times in the last two weeks. My last stay was for 4 days and on oxygen the whole time (I was just released on Thursday, August 25, 2011).

The doctors who worked on me are baffled because they send me back into the toxic environment known as Owosso and I get sick again. Is there any way you can help the residents of this town--especially the children, like Brittney Butcher, 13 who is at Mott Children's Hospital fighting for her life because she is rejecting her donated heart? People deserve a better quality of life than what we are getting in Owosso.

There is not one good reason to burn in Owosso. I can give you several excellent reasons to stop the burning: keep people healthy in Owosso, have better luck drawing new business, as they will not think of higher cost of health care because environmental smoke is so dangerous, burning leaves can have poison ivy which is tough to cure (besides we have leaf pick-up and do not need to burn), children can feel safe exercise outdoors instead of being afraid of an asthma attack (we have a high rate of asthma in our children); children's scores will improve at school as they do not have to worry about smoke in the classroom. These are a few of the wins if the City Council would say this is a health issue and we have to stop the burning.

State Health Code 901 is very clear, "You can not harm the health of an individual with a fire." So why is this allowed to continue in Owosso? We want to be forward thinking like Rochester Hills, Okemos and other towns like them. I assure you these cities do not allow burning.

Thank you,

Lisa Stechschulte, asthmatic begging for clean air in Owosso

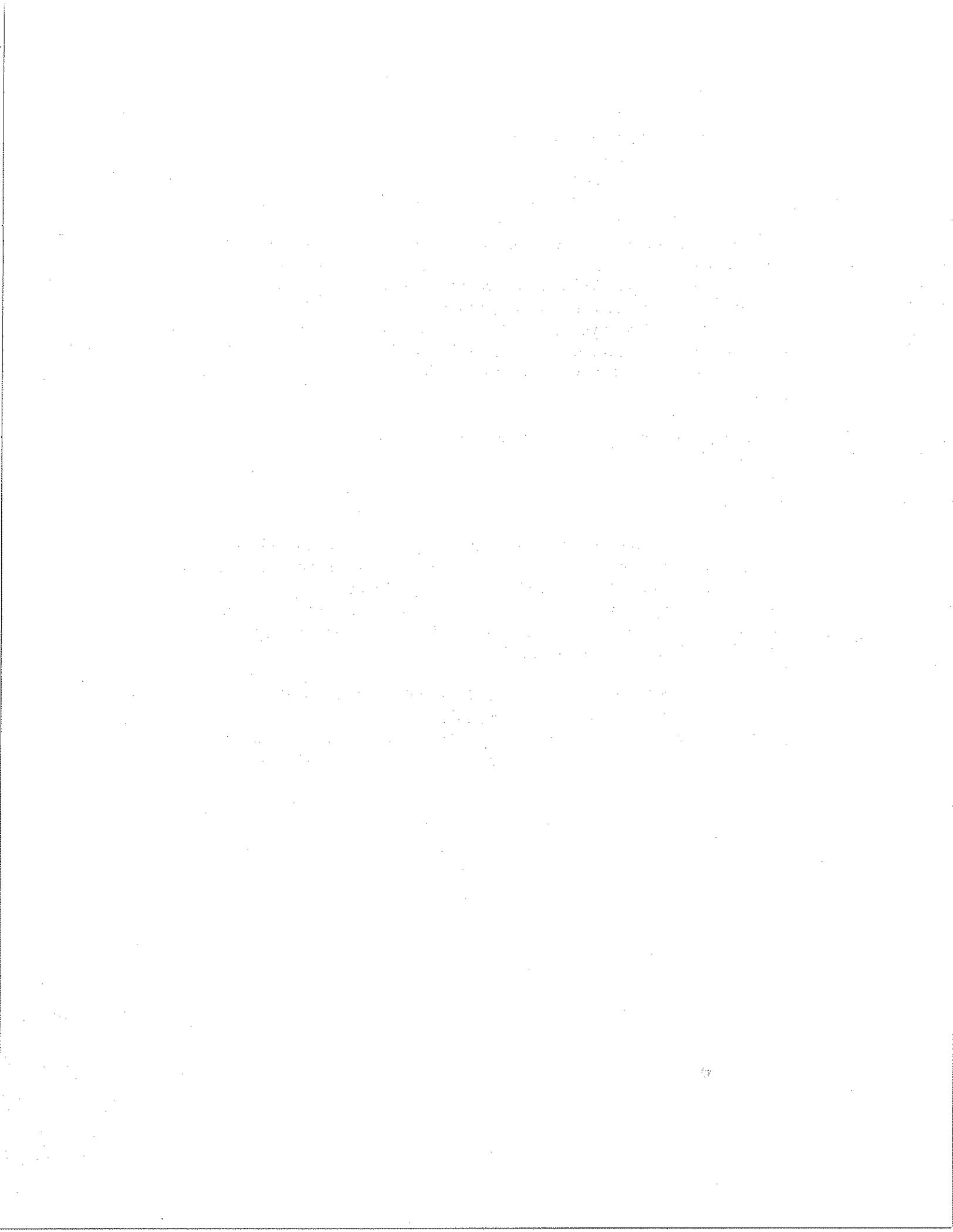
725 River Street

Owosso MI 48867

989-723-4084

P.S. We need to enforce with tickets or people will continue to burn illegal substances and harm others health. Again State Health Code 901 is not to be violated even if Owosso has a burning ordinance. The health of an individual takes precedent. We are desperately trying to find someone who cares enough to help the sickest among us, and there are plenty who are ill from this burning. My question is how many have to die before this ordinance is overturned?

We have more children under the age of 18 then who voted on this issue. I truly believe that our children's health is more important than a person's right to burn. But then I know what it is like to have to give up the job you love because you are too sick to work. I hope none of you ever have that sad day happen to you, especially at the age of 38.



Dear Honorable Senate Committee Members, here is another letter from Dr. Kenneth Rosenman:

Here is the second letter from Dr. Kenneth Rosenman about outdoor burning. I sent it to the local paper to try to let our residents see the harm they were causing to themselves. It still has not helped. We have people on oxygen who still burn. We hope their homes do not blow up! As one of my doctors said, "I practiced in Owosso and I felt like I was stepping into the Twilight Zone." My friends and relatives can not believe you can still burn "garbage" legally here--but you can--and they have burned everything from dirty baby diapers to couches. The Citizens for Clean Air in Owosso are hoping HB 4207 is passed in the Senate, as we learned that 35 % of all our pollution in Michigan is caused from burning; 7% from business and only 5% from cars.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa Stechschulte
725 River Street
Owosso MI 48867
989-723-4084

From: lisa stechschulte <lisastech@yahoo.com>
Subject: Most Recent Letter From Dr. Kenneth Rosenman
To: argusnews@charterinternet.com
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 3:44 PM

September 2, 2009

Dear Editor of Argus Press,

Here is Dr. Rosenman's most recent letter trying to convince our City Council that they need to ban burning for the safety of all residents, especially now that the school children are getting back in session.. Sadly nothing has been done to keep any of us safe at this point. Dr. Rosenman first wrote a letter back in August of 2008. We find it very disheartening that parking lots and the dates of garbage truck service are more important than clean air for the residents of the town. We deserve more respect than a parking lot and we prefer to get help before we have a tombstone above our heads.

Sincerely,

Citizens for Clean Air In Owosso

Dear Editor:

I am following up my previous letter to you from 8/25/08. You had previously asked me to comment on the hazards of outdoor burning including the burning of household waste. You have expressed particular concern about the hazards to those individuals with asthma. The hazards of

burning wood would be the same as the hazards of burning leaves.

Based on the prevalence of asthma in the state one would expect approximately 8-9% or 1,200-1,350 people of the 15,000 residents who live in Owosso to have asthma. Those with asthma would have the most immediate effect from outdoor burning. The particulates released into the air at ground level without any emissions controls would cause increased asthma symptoms necessitating increased need for medical care including medication, emergency department visits and hospitalizations. Others at immediate risk would include individuals with emphysema and coronary artery disease (heart disease). The latter, besides being at increased risk of symptoms, would also have increased risk of death. This risk would occur both from the burning of leaves and household garbage.

I had previously provided EPA web sites that address the health concerns of allowing outdoor burning of leaves.

As I indicated before, allowing the continued outdoor burning will have both immediate and long-term adverse **health** effects on the citizens of Owosso and I medically would recommend the practice be discontinued.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenneth Rosenman, MD, FACE, FACPM
Professor of Medicine
Michigan State University
Department of Medicine
Occupational and Environmental Medicine
117 West Fee Hall
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517-353-1846
Fax 517 432-3606
rosenman@msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

August 25, 2008

Lisa A. Stechschulte
725 River Street
Owosso, MI 48867

Dear Ms. Stechschulte:

You have asked me to comment on the hazards of outdoor burning including the burning of household waste. You have expressed particular concern about the hazards to individuals with asthma.

Based on the prevalence of asthma in the state one would expect approximately 8-9% or 1,200 - 1,350 of the 15,000 people who live in Owosso to have asthma. Those with asthma would have the most immediate effect from outdoor burning. The particulates released into the air at ground level from outdoor burning without any emission controls are likely to cause increased asthma symptoms, which might necessitate increased need for medical care including medication, emergency department visits and hospitalizations. Others at immediate risk would include individuals with emphysema and coronary artery disease. The latter, besides being at increased risk of symptoms, would be potentially at also increased risk of death. This risk would occur both from the burning of leaves and household garbage.



**DEPARTMENT OF
MEDICINE**

**Occupational &
Environmental
Medicine**

Kenneth D. Rosenman M.D.
Professor of Medicine

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Fax 517 432-3606

rosenman@msu.edu

One should also be concerned about the long-term effects of outdoor burning of household garbage which produces heavy metals and toxic chemicals such as dioxin that cause cancer. Again, burning at ground level without any emission controls markedly increases exposure to individuals.

The EPA has at least two web sites and multiple reports that address the health concerns of allowing outdoor burning of leaves and household waste.

EPA Web site on the hazards of residential leaf burning
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/burn/leafburn2.html>

EPA web site on the health hazards of backyard burning of household waste
<http://www.epa.gov/garbage/backyard/health.htm>

Lisa Stechsulte

August 25, 2008

Page 2

My understanding of Michigan law is that outdoor burning is banned unless a township passes rules to allow such burning. Given the anticipated adverse health effects, both immediate and long-term, on such burning on the citizens of Owosso I medically would not recommend the practice be allowed.

Please contact me if you have additional questions

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Rosenman, MD, FACE, FACPM
Professor of Medicine

KDR/rjv

January 14, 2012

Dear Honorable Governor Snyder,

Since your election, residents from the state of Michigan, especially Owosso residents have sent letters asking for your assistance in making our air truly "Pure Michigan". On April 1, 2011, there was supposed to be a state wide ban on the burning of outdoor garbage, with exceptions for campfires, fires for farmers, etc. The fires that are harming residents in my hometown, including myself and others, continue. It is currently 1:51a.m. as I type this letter, and someone in my neighborhood is burning a fire. There is snow on the ground and it is freezing. They do not care. The burning in Owosso knows no season, it is year round.

I know you are a very financially astute individual. If you want to save literally millions of dollars in medical health care around our state, then find a way to get your pen to sign the outdoor ban on burning of garbage. You could help reduce the asthma in our state, and trips to the hospital for asthma attacks in our state. You could lower cancer rates and endless other medical problems that are linked to burning.

Dioxin is the number one toxin released from a fire. We do not want that in our fish, wildlife, produce, dairy, or cattle. I do not want to eat dioxin laden food. It is bad enough smelling toxins from the fires in my house with my neighbors who burn and police who have a hard time enforcing the laws. None of my neighbors have received a ticket since July of 2010, even though I was averaging ten calls a month at one point to Central Dispatch because the fires were so bad. I was sent to the University of Michigan four times in a two week span because I could not breathe, yet not one neighbor was given a ticket.

May 2012 be the year, I can be like you, and breathe clean air, like the air in Ann Arbor, but in Owosso! I would love to walk outside, but on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I do not leave my house unless I am going to see one of my doctors from U of M. It is too dangerous for my health. The other days of the week in Owosso, you do not know if someone will be burning, as they are allowed to do so recreationally. My doctors are frustrated by the burning in Owosso. One even wrote the city council asking them to stop burning, all to no avail. Owosso should have to clean up its act for the residents, especially the children who are harmed the most. We have a \$10 million dollar cancer center in town because we have a

high rate of cancer in Owosso. If we got rid of the burning that would lessen our cancer rate. I hope you will help clean the air in the state of Michigan in 2012.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Stechschulte
725 River Street
Owosso MI 48867
Phone: 989-723-4084

Lisa A Stechschulte
725 River Street
Owosso, MI 48867
February 3, 2012

Dear Honorable Governor Snyder,

Since you are all about relentless positive action, I am once again asking, when will you be putting pen to paper to clean Michigan's air to make it truly "Pure Michigan" so children with asthma can safely walk in their neighborhoods, along with people of all ages being able to safely walk, play or exercise in their towns, villages, or townships, without having the misfortune of contracting cancer, asthma, or some other horrible illness due to the air they inhale.

As an Owosso resident, as I have so often stated, there still continues to be nothing pure about our air. I continue to look to you as our man of positive action to do just that, as action speaks louder than words.

Here is awaiting still for clean air for residents in the Great Lake State. There is nothing great about dioxin in our lungs, animals, dairy, eggs, produce, fish, or deer.

Still waiting for clean air in Owosso (hopefully in 2012),

Lisa Stechschulte

Reg#: [REDACTED] Name: [REDACTED], LISA A DOB: [REDACTED] Sex: F Age: [REDACTED] User Name: [REDACTED]

Document Type: LET/NOTE-RV

Case Date: 09/23/2008

Note: If this document has been electronically signed it is an authoritative medical record copy. If not electronically signed, it may still be preliminary or it may be signed on paper. Health Information Management maintains signed paper documents.

September 23, 2008

Re: Stechschulte, Lisa A
Reg No: [REDACTED]
DOB: [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Stechschulte is a patient currently under my care with very severe and profound chronic pulmonary and respiratory diseases. The exposure to outdoor burning is allowed and is occurring in all her town of Owosso gives her significant and profound enough worsening of disease that it puts her in a situation of potential clinical compromise. It is my recommendation that outdoor burning is not allowed to continue unless it is controlled appropriately by the city in order that the patients with respiratory diseases do not have similar exposures and similar exacerbations of their respiratory disorders.

If you require further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven Gay, MD
Assistant Professor

//Electronically signed by Steven Gay, MD on 09/24/08 15:06:34 //
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092408/0879/092408

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09/24/2008 3:13p