

[Back to regular view](#) [Print this page](#)

[suntimes.com](#) [Member of the Sun-Times News Group](#)

[Search >](#) [Site](#) [STNG](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER!](#)

[What's this?](#)

Become a member of our community!

[Sign In](#)

[Register](#)

'Jersey Boys' must stay smoke-free -- for now

CITY COUNCIL | Exemption for live theater on hold

July 29, 2008

[Recommend \(3\)](#)

BY [FRAN SPIELMAN](#) City Hall Reporter/fspielman@suntimes.com

It looks like the Jersey Boys will have to stay off the smokes for quite a while.

A City Council committee today deferred action on a plan by downtown Ald. Brendan Reilly (42nd) to exempt live theater from Chicago's smoking ban.

Reilly asked for the delay to mesh the city ordinance with a proposed state law and to consider altering it to include herbal cigarettes instead of real ones. That change will not be enough to appease critics.

Aldermen Robert Fioretti (2nd) and Ed Smith (28th) objected strongly to making any exception for live theater, rejecting Reilly's claim that cutting out smoking was "bordering on censorship."

Ald. Isaac Carothers (29th) was willing to accept a switch to herbal cigarettes, adding, "If a person made a play about Al Capone, I don't think you would suggest that they use real bullets in the gun. My point is you don't necessarily have to use real cigarettes."

[RubyFringe Guide: Where Did All the Cigarettes Go?](#)

From The Adventures of Accordion Guy in the 21st Century

[Monday's cigarettes](#)

From Ball in Europe

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Chicago

Sun-Times.

tourney wrote:

I just read that Bill Gates and the mayor of NY are going to spend 5 mil to get the world to stop smoking, the article also states that more people die of hunger than second hand smoke. And if you want to see second hand smoke go to metra train station at millen. park, to water st...and walk under ground, the heat and the smoke from the engines is profound..it open, till they built the park over it..now the smoke has no were to go. The highest heat had been reported at 110 degrees, with engines running. Smoke that in your pipe. And go by union station, and see the diesel smoke come out from the underground that your breathing getting to and from the union train station. Second hand smoke from the cta buses, and trains and cars alone, and dui's traveling, and we are worried about a stupid play, cause some moron protested...who probably went home to shoot up anyway. Thats how I see it.

7/28/2008 11:13 PM CDT on [suntimes.com](#)

[Recommend](#)

[Report Abuse](#)

ronald keaton wrote:

How utterly absurd this whole discussion is. I quit smoking in 1987 for my own health. I'm 54 and quite happy without smoking. BUT...to CENSOR creative interests because you can't smoke onstage is absolutely outrageous. This is where becoming so politically correct has brought us. What if it was a hit play about the tobacco industry? Would you stop it then, KNOWING that the whole point was ABOUT smoking? God help us from such conservative idiocy.

7/28/2008 10:42 PM CDT on suntimes.com

[Recommend](#)

[Report Abuse](#)

territunes wrote:

The politicos in the City of Chicago are beyond the pale!!!But, I bet they watch "Mad Men" and get their tobacco fix.

7/28/2008 9:59 PM CDT on suntimes.com

[Recommend](#)

[Report Abuse](#)