



Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>

ceremonial tobacco

3 messages

Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
To: Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>

Mon, May 5, 2025 at 1:37 PM

Hi Shaun,

Hope all is well. Other than this dreary weather, that is.

There is a discussion at the national level about NFG and ceremonial tobacco. And one of your Board members brought it up as well.

Do you think we need to do any outreach to her or do you think she is reasonably comfortable that we are addressing commercial tobacco and not ceremonial tobacco?

Please let me know if there is anything you think we can/should do.

Thanks,
Maureen

Maureen Buzby
Regional Tobacco Prevention Program
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176
781-979-4158

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Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>
To: "Buzby, Maureen" <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>

Mon, May 5, 2025 at 2:01 PM

I believe that we are set. I stated that I would amend the regulation to allow ceremonial tobacco this summer. I would love to be cc'd on anything that might be drafted over the next several months.

I can't get a feel on who might be showing up from the anti-NFG side. I'm getting many form letters. Nothing more. I have a community meeting on Thursday to prepare them for the regulation and garner participation at the hearing.

As for the weather, Simone and I just returned from San Antonio. We need the rain and it beats the high heat and humidity.

Shaun

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Shaun McAuliffe, RS, MPH

Health Director

Town of Hopkinton

18 Main Street

Hopkinton, MA 01748

(508) 497-9725

Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
To: Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>

Mon, May 5, 2025 at 3:08 PM

I'll share anything that comes out from ASH, or any of the other national/international organizations.

I'm sure we'll see indigenous people at the National Tobacco Conference in Chicago at the end of August. I hope to attend. I'll bring back anything related.

I expect we'll see the usual opposition in Hopkinton next week. Stephen Helfer from Cambridge Citizens for Smokers Rights and his cronies, as well as Peter Brennan from NECSEMA. We might see Josh Pruitt from NATO (National Association of Tobacco Outlets).

They usually manage to drum up some local retailers. We will hear the usual I'm sure - - "convenience stores are mostly owned by immigrants of color". That's true at least in my region. But this is about public health not economic development.

We'll also hear that retailers are the best line of defense. And that if people can't get their products here they'll just go to the next town over and/or order online, or get them on the black market.

We used to see distributors but not in the last several hearings. Maybe they will re-surface in Hopkinton. Interestingly Cumberland Farms' attorneys have not shown up for NFG hearings. So far.

Oh yes, I bet today is welcome relief. I am not a hot weather fan. But I do like sunshine. And I love flowering dogwoods, red buds, magnolia's, etc. Blossoms all on the ground after the wind and rain this weekend.

I'll keep you posted. Let me know if we can do anything more. We'll show up of course.

One last question: Will there be a virtual option? I'm not a fan but I understand the demand.

Thanks for your patience with all the questions.

Maureen

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