



## OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

105 SOUTH OAK PARK AVENUE, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302

January 16, 2015

*Supervisor*  
E. David Bualangci

To: President and Trustees, Village of Oak Park  
Fr: Supervisor and Trustees, Oak Park Township  
Re: Age Limit on Tobacco Sales

*Clerk*  
Gregory P. White

Township Youth Services is effective only through a close working relationship with youth, families, schools, villages and other public units and private services. In that spirit, the Oak Park Township board is requesting that the Village board consider an ordinance to increase the age requirement for tobacco sales in the Village.

*Assistant*  
Ali ElSaffar

*Trustees*  
Mary T. Czernus  
Clarrmarie L. Keenan  
Ade Oduyemi  
Jim Taglia

Current state law restricts tobacco sales in Oak Park to persons age 18 and older to help prevent minors (youth under 18) from beginning a life-long addiction to smoking. Current Village enforcement provides for citations to minors using tobacco. (See IMPACT brochure on current Oak Park and River Forest ordinances on tobacco use by minors:  
<http://www.oakparktownship.org/sites/default/files/impactBrochureFinal.pdf>)

*Telephone*  
708-383-8005

Current research supports raising the minimum age for tobacco sales to 21, based on evidence that, "many smokers transition to regular, daily use between the ages of 18 and 21; many young adult smokers serve as a social source of tobacco products for youth; and tobacco companies have long viewed young adults ages 18 to 21 as a target market group." – Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0376.pdf>)

*Facsimile*  
708-383-8062

The recent action by the City of Evanston to raise the legal age for tobacco sales to 21 follows a national movement to limit tobacco use by minors. The following is reported on the City of Evanston website:

*E-mail*  
township@  
oakparktownship.org

*Website*  
www.  
oakparktownship.org

"On Monday, October 27, 2014, the Evanston City Council passed an ordinance to change the minimum age to purchase and sell tobacco products from 18 years of age to 21.... Under the new law... it will be illegal for any person under the age of 21 to purchase or sell cigarettes, tobacco products, or liquid nicotine products (such as electronic cigarettes) in the City of Evanston. Reports estimate that 90 percent of tobacco products purchased for distribution to minors were by individuals under the age of 21. ... The ordinance was first proposed in May 2014 by the Evanston Health Advisory Council (EHAC) in the wake of success from similar laws passed in New York City and several cities in Massachusetts. The Evanston Human Services Committee

unanimously approved Ordinance (111-0-14) on October 6, which sent it to the City Council for approval.” Read more at <http://www.cityofevanston.org/news/2014/10/evanston-raises-age-to-purchase-tobacco-to-21>.

Also joining the effort to reduce smoking by minors:

- The Village of Oak Park Health Department website has a link to the Illinois Tobacco Quitline. See <http://www.oak-park.us/village-services/department-public-health>.
- PhillipMorrisUSA Company attests to cigarettes addictive quality and provides resources to help people quit:  
[http://www.philipmorrisusa.com/en/cms/Products/Cigarettes/Health\\_Issues/Quitting\\_Smoking/default.aspx](http://www.philipmorrisusa.com/en/cms/Products/Cigarettes/Health_Issues/Quitting_Smoking/default.aspx)
- PhillipMorrisUSA is also clear about requiring that consumers of its smokeless tobacco products marketing be age 21 or older, requiring age-verified direct consumer communications. See  
[http://www.philipmorrisusa.com/en/cms/Products/Smokeless\\_Tobacco/Marketing\\_Approach/default.aspx](http://www.philipmorrisusa.com/en/cms/Products/Smokeless_Tobacco/Marketing_Approach/default.aspx)

With the evidence from health authorities and the cigarette industry itself, the Township Board respectfully requests your consideration of an ordinance to address this important area of youth health and wellbeing.

F. David Boulanger  
Township Supervisor

Gavin Morgan  
Township Manager

CC: Township Trustees: Mary Cozzens, Clarmarie Keenan, Ade Onayemi , and Jim Taglia; Township Clerk Greg White; Youth Services Director John Williams; River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan; VOP Manager Cara Pavlicek, and IMP.A.C.T. President Ron Orzel.