

EMPLOYEE USE OF SCENTED PRODUCTS

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Brandy Comeau [bcbeauregarde@onlinenw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 3:13 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Fw: fragrances etc.
Attachments: Fragrances 2-15-10.doc

Hello Mr. Mayor & Commissioners,

Please read the attached about my struggle and having to quit two jobs because of others multitude of fragrances. The links to informative sites are very compelling.

There are alot of people suffering out there in the work place and also babies, children and pets at home. Portland can take a lead role in starting the "green" discussion regarding the right to breathe clean air in the work place.

Please see attached. Not my best writing, as I just cut and pasted it from some of my communications.

This issue is of a colossal magnitude. So many symptoms that so many people have on a daily basis are caused by these types of products. But, atlas there are huge fortunes to be made by making over the counter meds to treat the symptoms.

We are a country of weaklings, Gobbling antacids, diet pills, headaches pills, allergy meds, sleeping pills, muscle aches meds, fertility drugs, ED drugs, etc.

I call it double dipping! Create the maladies and then make the cures.

Hmmmmm?

thanks for your ear,

Brandy Comeau

Fragrance, etc.

The office that I used to work in was located in an old, poorly ventilated building. Due to client population served, (Social Service) some staff profusely sprayed Lysol, used room deodorizers, air freshener and actually lit scented candles. Also some staff used heavy perfumes, applied lotion to their hands in meetings and used hair spray in the bathroom. All of the above triggered a variety of allergic reactions for me which I had never had before. Difficulty breathing, skin reactions, brain fog, headaches, indigestion, seared mucous membranes and infections and chronic dry eyes. My supervisor for part of my work history of eight years did not support or believe me. I had to quit my job. I have since developed sensitivities, allergies to perfumes, lotions, shampoos, laundry products, household cleaners & deodorizers, paint, diesel, etc. I found another job in Marketing in a very well air conditioned and ventilated building. My boss put me on the edge of a sea of cubicles and I got so sick that I could not think clearly. My system reacted so badly that it produced mucous to the degree that my jaw joint was so swollen that I had to see a specialist and be treated. I had to quit that job.

Whether we can smell it or not these chemicals are in the air. The ones that we can smell are just more dangerous. Also, for the people who are using them, it is surprising how many people think that because they are not eating or drinking them they are not dangerous. Our skin is our largest organ. What touches it is absorbed to some degree. What ever is air born that we smell or not is breathed into our lungs and enters our system. I use the example of poison oak or ivy. Second hand smoke delivering toxins not unlike perfume or room deodorizers.

Perfume, Lotion, Cream, Cologne, Deodorant, bar soap, liquid Soap, body scrubs, Shampoo, Conditioner, Hair- Spray/Mousse/products, Shaving cream, Hair Dye, sun screen, tooth paste, mouthwash, Lip Balm, cosmetics, Makeup, etc. The average woman is using 517 chemicals on herself before she leaves for work. Not including; Laundry Detergent, Fabric Softeners, Dryer Sheets, Air-Fresheners, carpet cleaners, window cleaners, Cleaners, Polishes, Sanitizers, Dish Soap, etc.

Most of us assume, believe, (or it just never dawns on us) that the products that we use in our daily life are safe. Most people believe that they are approved by some government agency such as the FDA, EPA or DEQ. Safe for us because we buy them at the grocery store and at the pharmacy, where there are government regulations. These personal care and household products are sold where we buy Food and Drugs that are supposed to be safe to consume. In fact, there are no regulations and very few chemicals in these products have been tested. Perhaps 3%.

No testing has been done about the effects of these products being used daily simultaneously by humans. Or the effects when using these products combined with other environmental hazards in building materials, exposure to pesticides,

air and industrial pollutions, etc. The list of chemicals used in most of these products is frightening, when you do even a bit of research.

The chemicals and toxins that are used in everyday products such as shampoo & cream rinse, deodorant, perfume, hand soap and hand cream are numerous and unknown due to trade secrets, etc. All manner of laundry products are toxic. Nobody is adding up the mixture of chemical-toxic exposure to ourselves when you add up the personal care products that we use daily, then add the residue on our clothes blended with the chemicals in our homes or offices furnishings and construction materials. The propellants and boosters for long lasting effects used are untested as are most of the chemicals. These are making a reported 25% of adults sick. Imagine the side effects on children and pets.

Never has there been a generation of children been slowly poisoned under or very noses. Babies, toddlers and pets crawl/walk on our floors and cuddle into our necks. Imagine the toxins that they are brushing against or breathing in. There are Pediatricians who are waving red flags and warning pregnant women and new parents/grandparents to not use perfumes, colognes, deodorants hair sprays, gels, etc. because babies and toddlers faces and noses/mouths get cuddled into our necks, shoulders and cradled near our arm pits. Their little noses against our neck breathe in or make contact with all the toxins of our shampoos, cream rinses, colognes, perfumes, lotions, etc.

"There exists a growing population that realize the daily symptoms that they have for a myriad of maladies such as, (migraines, indigestion, eye irritations/dryness, skin rashes, asthma, altered moods, body aches, insomnia, hyper active, depression, confusion, impaired memory and concentration, etc.) are/can be caused by the toxins around them. More and more medical professionals are disclosing the harmful affects on people and pets, despite the pressure and efforts of "Corporate America" to snuff the evidence and facts."

On my journey to find relief from my symptoms and understand what is making me so sick, I discovered this website. I find it extraordinary that this website and the work that this org is doing is not readily available everywhere, ie. pop up in many searches that I have done over the years.

ewg.org for info. for cutting edge general interest on pollutants. Below their cosmetics/personal care products safety & exposure study.

www.cosmeticsdatabase.com their data base "skin deep" for almost ANY personal care product. Interestingly enough, the perfume that I used to use is in the red hazardous zone. I do not suggest that this caused all my health problems.

"natural, organic, dermatologist tested, fragrance free, etc., and yes even chemical free are lies or extremely misleading."

Cancer - One in Two Men and One in Three Women Will Get It. This is the latest statistics from The Cancer Institute.

Why should I have to smell or be made sick by the chemical pollution that a coworker is wearing on their person or clothes?

Food for thought.....

If I cut up an onion or smash a garlic clove, you will smell it until I remove it, The chemicals that are being put into all of the products above will not even wash out in a washing machine with organic soap and then rinsed in vinegar.

What rational person cannot comprehend how dangerous they are to all of us, even if we don't react to them or at least don't identify that we react to them.

Sincerely,
S. Brandy Comeau

15 February 2011

Mayor Sam Adams
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

c/o Karla Moore-Love, Council Clerk

Regarding: Council Item 168, Establish a City policy discouraging employee use of personal scented products in the workplace

Dear Mayor Adams and Commissioners:

Although I am unable to testify at tomorrow's hearing owing to work responsibilities, I would like to express my strong support as an individual employee of the City for the proposed policy discouraging employee use of personal scented products in the workplace.

I am aware of some coworkers at the City who struggle with chemical sensitivity. I have personally observed cases where employees have had to deal not only with the effects of fragrance or other chemical triggers in the work environment, but also with derision and dismissal of their legitimate health concerns. This is unacceptable.

Adoption of this policy is a good first step to providing a work environment that is healthy and accepting for all employees and visitors. Special thanks are due to Commissioner Fritz for advancing the City's position on personal scent.

I urge your vote to adopt this policy. Thank you for this chance to comment.

Sincerely yours,



Ellen Vanderslice
2951 NW Raleigh Street
Portland OR 97210