

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Monessen Tobacco Free Coalition was founded in February of 1999, and;

WHEREAS, leaders from the African American churches in Monessen, as well as Health and Child Care Organizations came together to address the needs of the African American community, and focused on a smoke-free air environment for children, and;

WHEREAS, the reach of the Tobacco Free Coalition was expanded to reach out to all families in Monessen, and a commitment to the elimination of tobacco use among youth of the area as established, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the Monessen Tobacco Free Coalition is to work to prevent the use of tobacco by youth under the age of eighteen (18), to bring cessation classes to Monessen and surrounding communities, and to work for tobacco-free environments for people of all ages. Historically, the coalition partners with various organizations to accomplish its mission, and;

WHEREAS, research has found that cigarette butt litter accounts for one in every five items collected during cleanups, making it the most prevalent form of litter on earth. There are over 176,000,000 pounds of discarded cigarette butts in the United States each year, and;

WHEREAS, smokers are more likely to litter if the environment includes other forms of litter around, such as bottles, paper, etc. The filters on cigarettes are made of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that takes 18 months to 10 years to decompose, depending on conditions, and;

WHEREAS, chemicals from cigarette butts have the potential to leach into storm sewers, streams, and bodies of water, where they can introduce carcinogenic chemical, pesticides, and nicotine into drinking water and ecosystems that negatively impact or kill fish and other wildlife, and;

WHEREAS, we must find ways to be mindful to not litter cigarette butts and other items within the city in order to do our part to ensure that everyone has the ability to lead a healthy lifestyle, and to make our city cleaner by reducing the amount of trash littered each year.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matthew T. Shorraw, Mayor of the City of Monessen, issue this proclamation to the Monessen Tobacco Free Coalition to recognize their 19 years of service to the community, and to encourage a reduction in littering of cigarette butts and other waste products, throughout the City of Monessen, especially those that are harmful to people and to the environment.



Matthew T. Shorraw, Mayor
City of Monessen