



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Phil Andrews

For Immediate Release

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Statement of Montgomery County Councilmember Phil Andrews on the eve of the one-year anniversary of the Restaurant Smoking Ban

"For the past year, restaurant workers and patrons in Montgomery County have been able to breathe easy because the air in restaurants is safe. Parents of children with asthma no longer have to worry about potentially life-threatening attacks. Waiters and bartenders no longer have to worry about sacrificing their health for a paycheck.

"Meanwhile, Montgomery County's restaurant industry is thriving. The most recent data available from the Office of the Comptroller shows that total sales tax revenue from all restaurants in Montgomery County increased 7.8% during the ten-month period since the smoking ban took effect (October 1, 2003 – July 31, 2004) compared to the same ten-month period the year before – increasing from \$47.8 million to \$51.6 million. In fact, restaurant revenues for June and July were the highest in several years. In addition, more than 50 restaurants have opened since the law took effect October 9, 2003.

"These results should encourage lawmakers in Annapolis and in the District of Columbia to promptly enact this essential public health measure. The health of thousands of restaurant workers and patrons is at stake."

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Councilmember Andrews was the lead sponsor of the Smokefree Restaurant Law.

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