

Restaurant Workers Union **Lobbying Instructions**

“Lobbying” involves trying to influence others. In a few minutes, you will be allowed by try to convince others to adopt the same view of the smoking ban that you have.

- **To prepare for lobbying, create a poster that supports your position “for” or “against” the smoking ban. You might want to include a catchy slogan, if you can think of one. Your goal is to communicate in a few words and/or pictures why you favor or oppose the ban. *Be creative!***

When the Mayor announces that it is time to lobby, leave at least one person at your table to talk with those who want to change your view.

Send at least two people to lobby other people or groups. You might want to send someone to talk to a Council Member who voted on the “wrong” side. You might want to send someone to talk to the “general public.” You might want to send someone to talk to the Chamber of Commerce, the Restaurant Owners Association, or Citizens Against Government Interference. Target those people or groups who took the opposite side from what you recommended.

Be ready to convince others that your group has the right position. Still, if others convince you that your position is wrong, be willing to change.

Here are some additional facts that you might want to share with others:

- Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. It kills more than 53,000 nonsmokers every year.
- People in the food service industry have a 50% greater risk of getting lung cancer than other workers.
- Smoke from the burning end of a cigarette contains more than 50 known cancer-causing chemicals.
- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke is immediately harmful.