

The Greer Citizen

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A TALE OF TWO CITIES

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Letter to the editor

To the editor,

In many ways, Spartanburg and Greer residents live two very different realities – and this month is a reminder as to one of the biggest reasons why.

September marks the anniversary of Spartanburg's comprehensive smoke-free policy that for over 11 years has ensured every person who has clocked into work or simply visited any of the town's many establishments is protected from dangerous secondhand smoke.

Unfortunately, the same comfort and protection can't be said for us who work in Greer, despite nearly all county voters in agreement that the right to be protected from secondhand smoke is more important than the right to smoke.

I've been a nurse for over 35 years and a current employer at the health clinic of a large manufacturer in the Upstate.

I've seen firsthand what a lack of city policy means for Greer workers and how it directly compromises their health.

Don't let anyone tell you otherwise: research shows there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and the dangers are immense for people who smoke and don't smoke.

Our town could be even greater if it was the next city to go smoke-free.

Smoke-free policies save lives and help our small businesses by lowering insurance premiums and other costs.

It's time for our city council to look past the smoke of forced normalcy and put our workers and small businesses first.

Tammy Timms
Spartanburg resident
who works in Greer