

Summary**Board Bill Number 226****Primary Sponsor: Alderwoman Pamela Boyd****January 8, 2021**

The proposed bill prohibits locating recreational fires in a front yard or a side yard if the recreational fire is visible from an adjacent public right of way other than an alley. The bill also creates exceptions to the prohibition on recreational fires after 11:00 pm and the requirement that recreational fires not to continue more than four hours for fires being used for cooking and smoking food.

BOARD BILL NUMBER 226 INTRODUCED BY: ALDERWOMAN PAMELA BOYD

1 An ordinance amending **Ordinance 70932** concerning recreational fires to prohibit recreational
2 fires in locations other than a back yard or a side yard so long as the recreational fire is not
3 visible from an adjacent public way other than an alley.

4 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

5 **SECTION ONE.** Section One of **Ordinance 70932** is hereby amended to be and read as
6 follows:

7 **SECTION ONE. Definitions of recreational fire.**

8 **Recreational fire** is an outdoor fire, burning fuel other than refuse, leaves, grass, treated wood,
9 building materials, paper, or logs larger than four (4) inches diameter, where the fuel is not
10 contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or
11 barbeque pit, has a total fuel area no more than thirty (30) inches in diameter and eighteen (18)
12 inches in height, used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

13 ***Front yard*** means a yard measured across the width of the entire lot and situated between
14 the front lot line and the nearest portion of the main building other than steps, unenclosed
15 balconies or unenclosed porches.

16 ***Rear yard*** means a yard measured between the side lot lines, the rear lot line and the
17 nearest portion of the main building other than steps, unenclosed balconies or unenclosed
18 porches.

1 **Side yard means a yard measured between the side line of the lot and the main building or**
2 **any portion thereof and extending from the front yard to rear yard.**

3 **SECTION TWO.** Section Two of **Ordinance 70932**, is hereby amended to be and read as
4 follows:

5 SECTION TWO. Conduct and management of recreational fires.

6 (1) Recreational fires may **only be located in a rear yard or located in a side yard**
7 **so long as the recreational fire is not visible from an adjacent public right**
8 **of way other than an alley, and shall** not be located **in a front yard or** within
9 twenty-five (25) feet of any structure, including a fence or deck. Conditions
10 which would cause a fire to spread to within twenty-five (25) feet of a structure
11 must be eliminated prior to ignition.

12 (2) Recreational fires must be attended by a competent individual, who is at least
13 sixteen years of age, until completely extinguished.

14 (3) Recreational fires **that are not being used for the purpose of cooking or**
15 **smoking foods** must be extinguished within four (4) hours following ignition,
16 and **except for recreational fires that are being used for the purpose or**
17 **cooking or smoking food in no case will a no recreational** fire **shall** be
18 allowed to burn later than 11:00 pm. A means to extinguish the recreational fire
19 such as a fire extinguisher, garden hose, or a bucket of water or sand must be
20 readily at hand, and in no case more than fifteen (15) feet in distance from the
21 fuel area.

- 1 (4) Recreational fire that is offensive or objectionable due to excessive or lingering
2 smoke or odor emissions is prohibited.
- 3 (5) Recreational fires are not permitted if winds are greater than fifteen (15) miles
4 per hour.

BOARD BILL NO. 136 INTRODUCED BY: ALDERMAN JOE VACCARO

1 An ordinance defining “recreational fire” as an outdoor fire, burning fuel other than
2 rubbish, leaves, grass, paper, building materials except for untreated dimensional lumber, or
3 logs larger than four (4) inches diameter, where the fuel is not contained in an incinerator,
4 outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit, has a total fuel
5 area no more than thirty (30) inches in diameter and eighteen (18) inches in height, used for
6 pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes; and providing for the
7 regulation of recreational fires; and containing an emergency clause.

8

9 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

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11 **SECTION ONE.** Definition of recreational fire. Recreational fire is an outdoor fire, burning
12 fuel other than refuse, leaves, grass, treated wood, building materials, paper, or logs larger
13 than four (4) inches diameter, where the fuel is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor
14 fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit, has a total fuel area no
15 more than thirty (30) inches in diameter and eighteen (18) inches in height, used for pleasure,
16 religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

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2 **SECTION TWO.** Conduct and management of recreational fires.

3 (1) Recreational fires may not be located within twenty-five (25) feet of any
4 structure, including a fence or deck. Conditions which would cause a fire to
5 spread to within twenty-five (25) feet of a structure must be eliminated prior to
6 ignition.

7 (2) Recreational fires must be attended by a competent individual, who is at least
8 sixteen years of age, until completely extinguished.

9 (3) Recreational fires must be extinguished within four (4) hours following
10 ignition, and in no case will a fire be allowed to burn later than 11:00 pm. A
11 means to extinguish the recreational fire such as a fire extinguisher, garden
12 hose, or a bucket of water or sand must be readily at hand, and in no case more
13 than fifteen (15) feet in distance from the fuel area.

14 (4) Recreational fire that is offensive or objectionable due to excessive or lingering
15 smoke or odor emissions is prohibited.

16 (5) Recreational fires are not permitted if winds are greater than fifteen (15) miles
17 per hour.

18 (6) City of St. Louis health and public safety authorities may prohibit, suspend or
19 further restrict recreational fires should conditions warrant such action.

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1 **SECTION THREE.** Penalty clause. Any person who violates the provisions of this
2 ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not less than one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more
3 than five-hundred dollars (\$500) or a term of imprisonment of not more than ninety days (90)
4 or both a fine and term of imprisonment.

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6 **SECTION FOUR.** Emergency clause. This being an ordinance for the preservation of public
7 peace, health, and safety, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure within the
8 meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis and
9 therefore shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the mayor.