

City of Malden Board of Health Raises Minimum Age to Buy Cigarettes to Age 21

At the Malden Board of Health meeting held June 9, 2014, the Board voted to amend the Malden Board of Health, Rules & Regulations, Section 21, Restricting the Sale and Use of Tobacco Products & Nicotine Delivery Products. The amendment increases the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21. At a prior public hearing, Mayor Gary Christenson testified before the Board of Health in support of raising the minimum age. The Mayor had previously met with teens from the YWCA and the Malden Teen Enrichment Center to discuss the topic of underage smoking and what can be done to assist in the area of smoking cessation. "I was surprised to learn how easily accessible all types of cigarettes are to minors," said Mayor Christenson. "I was also impressed by the work these groups are doing to raise awareness and address the problem among their peers."

Malden joins 15 other cities and towns who have restricted the sale of tobacco and nicotine delivery products to people who are 21 or older and six who have restricted the sale to individuals 19 years of age. This measure protects approximately 558,000 young people in the participating communities.