City has done its bit against pollution

In general, letter writer Herbert Molano is correct ("Improving health in the city is easy," Community Commentary, Monday). There is a lot more the city could do to promote its residents' health.

But he is being unfair to the City Council. The council did ban outdoor grilling, recognizing that the unfiltered smoke from outdoor grills has been proven carcinogenic.

The council is now considering banning smoking outdoors in public places ("Council appears ready to snuff smoking," March 27).

This is an excellent step.

The city did carry out investigations to make sure that stores sold cigarettes and tobacco products only to adults ("City Council clamps down on tobacco sale to youth," Sept. 19).

This is something that should be done at least every two years.

Some people have claimed that smoking is part of the culture of some immigrant groups and that we should not interfere with this culture. There is nothing wrong with trying to change a cultural custom if it is bad.

Until fairly recently, smoking was part of the American culture. You only have to look at movies from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s to see this. But health educators and others intervened and change the culture. In the case of the cultural use of cigarettes, the city should start developing educational strategies to change this.

We would all be better off if the city could reduce smoking among its residents, and in doing this, the city might be able to prove Molano wrong. About this, he would be happy to be wrong.

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