Smoking ban sets a bad precedent

I wrote to Councilman Dave Weaver in an earlier e-mail about his decision regarding second-hand smoke and my disagreement with his decision ("Council eases up on smoking," Wednesday).

I had said that freedom and personal property rights were forgotten by those on the council who voted to ban (on personal property) patio smoking in restaurants.

I had forgotten to mention that my son, who worked for one of the automobile dealerships in Glendale, passed away at 34 years old in bed. And the coroners did not ever state a definite cause of death. It could have been caused by many things: diet, congenital or stress (that's a big one).

Sometimes the grief is unbearable.

Weaver referred to his father, who was a smoker, stating that smoking was the cause of his passing. I am very sorry about his loss.

My son did not smoke or drink, except an occasional beer.

Should I blame his employer, who seemed to cause such stress? My son lived on Lido Isle, Newport Beach, worked in Glendale and had to commute. He stayed in my home two nights a week.

He had a wife and two children who observed his death in the very early morning. I personally think it was stress.

Now, should I blame his employer and all employers in Glendale and say that all employees should never be exposed to any stress? It has been written in many health magazines that stress is a killer, causing high blood pressure and stroke in so many.

Would the City Council ban all stress for employees in Glendale?

Or perhaps having a long commute to work should be given special consideration?

Just being in a stressful environment is not good for the employee, and that stress is not good for those who work around that employee. Would you agree? I wonder how many businesses that cause stress to their employees should be banned? Just asking.

But, I really believe that everyone has to take responsibility for themselves and not try to change others. If you do not like a situation, move away from it.

This is what freedom allows, and respect for "property rights" dictate regarding the smoking ban on private property.

MARLENE WALKER
Glendale