

# Lowell Tobacco Control Report

## March of 2021

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### Lowell

#### Inspections

I completed 33 in-store inspections this month. There seems to be a stronger push from tobacco distributors for retailers to carry products the sale of which has been prohibited in Lowell since 2014. An example of this are blunt wraps and cigar packs containing fewer than four cigars.

#### Implementation of the new state law: An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control

While retailers have become more acquainted with the requirements of the state law, new products designed to enhance tobacco or vaping products with flavor have appeared in some stores. I have hired a contractor to help increase our presence at the store environment and assist with educating retailers about the law.

#### Compliance Checks

We are still holding off on compliance checks until covid-19 numbers decrease and more people have been vaccinated.

#### Tobacco Permit Renewal

The following establishment have not completed renewal of its tobacco permit yet:

- The 99 Store, 180 Liberty St

The above-mentioned store was inspected this month again to ensure it is not selling tobacco or vaping products.

#### Kick Butts Day

We would normally celebrate those who have quit smoking at an event held at the State House, where we would support young people to help raise awareness about tobacco use. Because of the pandemic, this year the event was a virtual one hosted by Health Resources In Action (HRIA) on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### Policy Review

I am currently reviewing our local BOH regulation to determine changes that we will need to make in order to conform to the requirements of the state law adopted in 2019. As example, the fine structure will need to change from \$100, \$200, \$300 to \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000. Once I have reviewed everything, I will report my findings to the Board.