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By Tracy Everbach  
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News  
There won't be any more puffing and chewing in Dallas County buildings if county commissioners have their way.  
Commissioners on Tuesday proposed tightening their policy on tobacco by banning it from county buildings except the jails and by ordering smokers to stay at least 25 feet from building entrances.  
Current county policy allows smoking in individual offices and anywhere outside.  
In addition to cigarettes and other smoking tobacco products, smokeless tobacco also would be prohibited.  
"I received a lot of questions about smokeless tobacco," County Commissioner Mike Cantrell said at Tuesday's Commissioners Court meeting.  
"Individuals dip it and spit the trash can," he said, as some spectators cringed or wrinkled their noses.  
The new policy would take effect after a review and comment period of at least 30 days.  
Some commissioners expressed concern about enforcement. The proposed policy says that employees who violate it "will be subject to county disciplinary action, as well as prosecution under applicable sections of the (city smoking) ordinance."  
The Dallas ordinance imposes a maximum \$200 fine for violations.

# Dallas commission proposes tougher policy on tobacco

ing Mr. Wright, who works for the Paul Ray Berardson firm. He will cost the county \$14,000 plus expenses up to \$5,000. The contract specifies that the consulting agreement begins April 25 and ends Aug. 1.

Under the agreement, Mr. Wright is to develop an in-depth search strategy, conduct research and screening of candidates, interview and evaluate candidates, do background checks and provide a short list of candidates.

He also is to schedule interviews and make travel arrangements for candidates, conduct in-depth interviews, check references and, later, help integrate the new director into the job.

A search committee, including members of the county board that oversees the department, asked commissioners to approve retaining the job.

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## Tenants sue manager, owner of apartments in Oak Cliff

Privacy, repairs cited; operator says rules followed

By Tracy Everbach  
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Broken toilets, lack of air conditioning, defective wiring and a 10 p.m. curfew. Four tenants of a west Oak Cliff apartment complex say they live with these and other conditions every day.

Tuesday, the four women sued the company that owns the Highland Road Village Apartments complex on South Cockrell Hill Road and the corporation that manages it.

They contend that employees of

law suit filed a demonstration Tuesday in front of the George L. Allen Sr. Courts Building downtown to draw attention to their legal action. The suit was filed by Legal Services of North Texas, a nonprofit group that provides free legal assistance.

"I'm surprised Legal Services would do this because we've always cooperated with them," Mr. DeChitt said.

But Robert W. Doggett, the Legal Services attorney who filed the suit, said the tenants' repeated problems



The Dallas Morning News staff poses for a photo in front of the George L. Allen Sr. Courts Building on Tuesday to draw attention to the lawsuit she and three other tenants are bringing.

Tenant Vickie Wade demonstrates outside the George L. Allen Sr. Courts Building on Tuesday to draw attention to the lawsuit she and three other tenants are bringing.

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