

Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County and Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep team up with the Florida Panthers



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February 9, 2018, Fort Lauderdale, FL -- Once again the Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County and Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep are teaming up with the Florida Panthers for a night of hockey to highlight the importance of a tobacco-free community and clean beaches. This year's hockey event is scheduled for Sunday, March 4, at 3:00 PM, when the Florida Panthers will be playing the Philadelphia Flyers at the BB&T Center in Sunrise.

Having tobacco-free outdoor spaces promotes healthy communities by protecting citizens from the harmful exposure to tobacco smoke and establishing more environmental friendly community spaces.

Health benefits include protection of nonsmokers from secondhand smoke exposure, protection of young children from toxic cigarette butts and other tobacco litter, and positive role modeling for youth. Benefits to the environment include reduced tobacco litter, cleaner playgrounds, parks and waterways, protection of marine and wildlife from toxic tobacco litter, and reduced risk of fire. Cleanup costs are reduced due to reduced staff time needed for litter and waste clean-up.

"The Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County is proud to partner with our other community members in this event. Teaming with our Florida Panthers helps to bring to light the harmful effects of tobacco usage to youth and adults and to the local environment. This event highlights some the positive educational programs available to make a difference in our community," said Dr. Don Torok, Chairperson of the Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County.

The American Lung Association is an active participant in the Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep and the Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County. Andrew Cuddihy, Health Promotions Director at the American Lung Association office in Fort Lauderdale said, "A big part of our Florida lifestyle is enjoying a day at one of our fantastic beaches. I am surprised at the types of trash that some people leave on our beaches. In particular, I am surprised just how many cigarette butts we find during the Beach Sweep. Hopefully, building awareness about this problem will help us to achieve smoke-free beaches and parks someday soon."

"As part of NHL Green Month, the Panthers are thrilled to join with Tobacco Free partnership of Broward County and Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep as partners in the community. The Panthers are always looking for ways make South Florida a better place and there is no better way than being able to partners with these two great organizations on a night to raise awareness of the dangers of tobacco and keeping our environment clean for future generations to enjoy beautiful Broward County," said John Colombo, Director of Community Relations for the Florida Panthers.

About the Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County:

The mission of the Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County (TFP) is to prevent or reduce the health risks associated with tobacco use through community education. The TFP meets the third Thursday of every month at 8:00 AM in the Tobacco Prevention Education Center located at the Florida Department of Health in Broward County, 780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315. For more information, visit <http://www.tfp-broward.org> or call (954) 467-4807.