


**CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH
CITY COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution No. 21-76 supporting State legislation to authorize cities and counties to restrict smoking in parks, on beaches, and in other public spaces.

TODAY'S DATE: Nov. 10, 2021

MEETING DATE: Nov. 22, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Kevin Hogencamp, Deputy City Manager 

PRIORITIES: Supports "Livability: An initiative to improve health, education, housing conditions, culture and leisure, and other quality-of-life indicators"

Supports "Environmental Leadership: An initiative validating COAB's commitment to being a sustainable, resilient community"

SUMMARY: Florida law prohibits local governments from setting up reasonable smoke-free zones in public parks, playgrounds, recreation fields and beaches. There is no better time than the present for the Florida Legislature to enact healthy legislation to protect the State's residents, visitors and ecology from harmful secondhand smoke exposure, protect young children and wildlife from toxic cigarette butts and other tobacco litter, and provide a positive role model for our youth by making all beaches and parks tobacco-free.

RECOMMENDATION: Commission consider approving Resolution No. 21-76

BUDGET: N.A.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution No 21-76

CITY MANAGER:



RESOLUTION NO. 21-76

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING STATE LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE CITIES AND COUNTIES TO RESTRICT SMOKING IN PARKS, ON BEACHES, AND IN OTHER PUBLIC SPACES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida law prohibits local governments from setting up reasonable smoke-free zones in public parks, playgrounds, recreation fields and beaches; and

WHEREAS, there is no better time than the present for the Florida Legislature to enact healthy legislation to protect the State's residents, visitors and ecology from harmful secondhand smoke exposure, protect young children and wildlife from toxic cigarette butts and other tobacco litter, and provide a positive role model for our youth by making all beaches and parks tobacco-free; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke harms everyone, especially children. It causes cancer, heart disease, respiratory problems, and triggers asthma; and

WHEREAS, further, according to the United Nations International Maritime Organization, 177 species of marine animals and 111 species of shorebirds are affected by tobacco litter, causing unnecessary malnutrition, starvation, and death. Tobacco litter has been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales, and other animals who mistake it for food; and

WHEREAS, also according to the Environmental Protection Agency, cigarette butts are the most littered item in America.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Commission of the City of Atlantic Beach, Florida:

Section 1. That the City Commission of the City of Atlantic Beach supports State legislation supporting state legislation to authorize cities and counties to restrict smoking in parks, on beaches, and in other public spaces.

Section 2. That the City Commission directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Florida Governor, the City of Jacksonville, the Florida League of Cities, and the Duval County delegation of the Florida Legislature, for distribution.

Section 3. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Atlantic Beach, this 22nd day of November, 2021.

Ellen Glasser, Mayor

Attest:

Donna L. Bartle, City Clerk

Approved as to form and correctness:

Brenna M. Durden, City Attorney