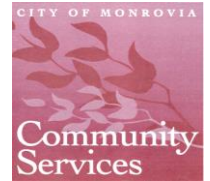




**CITY OF MONROVIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Public Services

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2016

PREPARED BY: Tina Cherry, Director

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-1

TITLE: Proposed Smoking Ban in City Parks

OBJECTIVE: Recommend to City Council a Smoking Ban in City Parks

BACKGROUND: At the September 9, 2015 Community Services Commission meeting, Glendale Adventist Medical Center presented a report on the dangers of tobacco specifically those threats related to youth. The presentation included information related to the dangers of e-cigarettes, and the access to tobacco by teens in our community. Glendale Adventist shared a report on tobacco retail sales in Monrovia which showed 42% (11 out of 26) Monrovia retailers approached were willing to sell tobacco products to minors. The presentation shed light on the negative effects of smoking and included information related to possible Tobacco Retail Licensing Programs.

At the September 15, 2015 City Council meeting, the Community Services Council Liaison Mayor Pro Tem Spicer, requested the Council direct the Community Services Commission work with staff to assess the feasibility of a smoking ban in City parks. At the October 13, 2015 Commission meeting, a subcommittee was formed to study the issue more closely. Chair Matthews, Vice-Chair Yuille, Commissioner Dittmar, and Commissioner Hirsch agreed to serve on this subcommittee.

ANALYSIS: The subcommittee met on November 4, 2015 to define the objective, identify stakeholders, discuss the process and set subsequent meetings. The committee determined the following analysis was necessary to establish an informed recommendation.

- Compile a list of the known health risks (direct and in-direct) related to tobacco use
- Assess what other neighboring agencies have adopted and ensure we are conforming to ensure continuity in the San Gabriel Valley
- Define facilities that may be impacted should an ordinance be adopted
- Review and advise on ordinance revisions to include all tobacco products
- Develop park signage and define an enforcement plan should an ordinance be adopted

In addition, the subcommittee believed it was important to be mindful of the process and ensure inclusion for all as well as study the various tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, vapes, chewing tobacco, etc. to minimize any oversight or loop holes.

After taking some time to review the objectives, the subcommittee met again on December 2, 2015 to verify its direction. At the meeting the objective and stakeholders were confirmed, and the special meeting to gather community feedback was planned.

On January 27, 2016, a Community Meeting was held with approximately 30 members in attendance. The meeting was designed to gather information from stakeholders related to the proposed smoking

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ban. Several attendees spoke during the meeting to share information, relate personal stories, or voice their opinion on the issue. The meeting was organized to allow for questions from the attendees first and then to take comments.

Most speakers at the meeting were in support of the proposed smoking ban, and there were no members in attendance opposing the proposed smoking ban. Some attendees wanted to see the City take a stronger stand and ban smoking City-wide, others were hoping for bans in all public right-of-ways, and most were in support of the park ban. To provide a more detailed background on their comments, Attachment A (Minutes from the January 27, 2016 Subcommittee Meeting) outlines the specific comments heard.

Following the Community Meeting, the subcommittee met on February 1, 2016 to debrief on the feedback. After some discussion, the consensus was to take a proactive step to engage the stakeholders who were not present at the meetings; specifically park users who smoke, and retail tobacco based businesses. The subcommittee identified the specific businesses and park users, and divided the list to reach out and gather feedback.

On February 17, 2016 the subcommittee shared their findings as a result of the additional outreach. The park users, who smoke, were not opposed to the ban; however, requested an area be identified where smoking would be allowed. Others were not opposed; however stated it would not stop them from smoking in the parks. The retail business owners who strictly sold tobacco and / or tobacco related merchandise were also not opposed to the ban; however, had some cautions related to how vapes would be addressed in any proposed ordinance.

The subcommittee was given several documents to help form their recommendation. Due to the volume of materials, a list of these references has been provided below. A complete packet can be made available as needed.

Documents provided and assessed during Proposed Smoking Ban research:

- Glendale Adventist Medical
 - Model California Ordinance Requiring a Tobacco Retailer License
 - Model California Ordinance “Plug In” Policy Options
 - LACDPH Monrovia Tobacco Youth Purchase Survey 2015
 - How Tobacco Affects Your Body
 - Dangers of Tobacco – Third Hand Smoke
 - ACS: Teens Like Different Forms of Tobacco and Nicotine
 - E-Cigarettes: 8 Things Everyone Should Know
 - E-Cigarettes Are Gateway to Substance Abuse and Addiction
 - Retailer Licensing Survey Report
 - Facts on Illegal Sales of Tobacco to Youth
 - How to Help Someone Quit Smoking
 - Letter – Support if a Tobacco Retailer Licensing (TRL) Ordinance
- LA County Department of Public Health
 - State Health Officer’s Report on E-Cigarettes
 - Addressing the Rising Prevalence of Electronic Cigarette Use in Los Angeles County
 - ALA: Local Policies on the Use and Sale of Electronic Cigarettes
 - ALA: List of Municipalities that Restrict Smoking in Recreation Areas
 - PHLP: Support for Smoke free Parks
 - Tobacco Control Ordinances in Los Angeles County
 - Change Lab Solutions – Comprehensive Smoke free Place Ordinance: A Model California Ordinance Regulating Smoking in Indoor and Outdoor Areas
- American Lung Association

- State of Tobacco Control California Local Grades '16

After much discussion the subcommittee developed an informed recommendation. There were however a few items which may benefit from further consideration.

- Boundaries of Park (Sidewalks, Parking Lots, etc.)
- Enforcement by Park Rangers (Administrative Fines)
- Define smoking devices (Throughout the Ordinance)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: There are no environmental impacts related to the recommendation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There are no financial impacts related to the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION: Based on the information gathered during the assessment; the subcommittee would recommend the Commission advise the Council to consider establishing a ban on smoking in City parks.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED: If the Community Services Commission concurs, the appropriate action would be to recommend the Commission advise the Council to consider establishing a ban on smoking in City parks.