



PRESS RELEASE

City of South Haven
539 Phoenix Street, South Haven, MI 49090
Fax: 269-637-5319
Web: www.south-haven.com

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BANNING SMOKING AT PUBLIC PARKS AND BEACHES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – (July 10, 2018; South Haven, Michigan) At their July 2nd meeting, South Haven City Council approved an ordinance amendment which bans smoking at City beaches and parks.

In recent years, City staff has received numerous complaints of smoking on City beaches and parks, including cigarette butts littering the areas. This has been an ongoing challenge that many waterfront communities have experienced. The City Parks Commission, at their October 10, 2017 meeting, discussed the issue and consequently recommended that the City Council approve an amendment to Chapter 58, Article III, of the Code of Ordinances to add Section 58-102, which bans smoking in City beaches and parks. As a result of the Parks Commission recommendation, the City's staff worked with the City Attorney to prepare the ordinance amendment which was approved by City Council.

Health benefits of tobacco-free outdoor recreational areas 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; environmental benefits include reduced tobacco litter, cleaner waterways, protection of marine and wildlife from toxic tobacco litter, and reduced risk of fire. Maintenance costs may be reduced due to reduced staff time needed for litter and waste clean-up.

City staff intends to educate the public by installation of prominent signage and community education through press releases, social media posts, and notices to other entities that will assist in sharing the ordinance change to the public.

Contact information: City Manager Brian Dissette, bdissette@south-haven.com; 269-637-0750.

-----END-----