
Jersey City council adopts ban on smoking in public parks



No more smoking in Jersey City's 65 public parks, with the City Council tonight finalizing the ban with a unanimous vote. (Jersey Journal file photo)



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Jersey City will join eight other Hudson County municipalities in prohibiting smoking from public parks, with the City Council voting unanimously tonight to approve the ban.

The measure was forwarded by Councilman at large Rolando Lavarro, himself a smoker.

E-cigarettes had been part of a previous draft of the ban, but they weren't included in the version adopted tonight.

An anti-smoking group is donating 300 signs to Jersey City to alert residents to the new law.

Laura Skolar, speaking tonight on behalf of the Jersey City Parks Coalition, called the measure a "no brainer."

"From now on, children, families and seniors who use our parks won't have to deal with the health hazards of secondhand smoke," Skolar said, adding that the ban will also reduce litter and the number of accidental fires.

Hudson County banned smoking from its parks earlier this year. Bayonne, Guttenberg and Harrison will be the only Hudson municipalities without such a ban once Jersey City's takes effect.

Anyone found lighting up in one of the city's 65 parks could face a fine of up to \$1,250 and a possible 90-day prison sentence.

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