



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#19-0349

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: April 2, 2019

TITLE: Resolution Urging the Florida Legislature to Enact Legislation to Prohibit
the Smoking of Tobacco on Public Beaches

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would prohibit the smoking of tobacco products on public beaches, such as is proposed in Senate Bill 218 of the 2019 legislative session.

Background

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, smoke from the burning of tobacco products and the smoke exhaled by the smoker, commonly referred to as secondhand smoke, exposes nonsmokers to hundreds of toxic chemicals including about 70 that can cause cancer, approximately 2.5 million nonsmokers have died from health-related illnesses caused by exposure to secondhand smoke since 1964, and there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure; even brief exposure can be harmful to health.

The City of Fort Lauderdale is one of the nation's most popular tourist destinations, attracting more than 12.8 million visitors annually. The public beach area hosts numerous special programs throughout the year, including national and international music and sporting events, attracting neighbors and visitors to the shore. Legislation prohibiting the use tobacco products on public beaches would minimize potential secondhand smoke exposure and would increase overall public health.

Currently, Florida law does not permit local municipal and county governments to prohibit the smoking of tobacco products on public beaches, but proposed changes are being considered by the Florida Legislature during its current session.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018 initiative, included within the Public Places Cylinders of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 3: Be a community that finds opportunities and leverages partnerships to create unique, inviting, and connected gathering places that highlight our beaches, waterways, urban areas, and parks.
- Objective 1: Improve access to and enjoyment of our beach, Riverwalk, waterways, parks, and open spaces for everyone.

This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Here.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Prepared by: Laura Reece, Budget Director

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