

CHAPTER 2014-56

No. 562 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I, "IN GENERAL" OF CHAPTER 18, "PARKS AND RECREATION," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, BY ADDING THERETO SECTION 18-22, ENTITLED, "SALE OR USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN PARKS."

Approved December 11, 2014

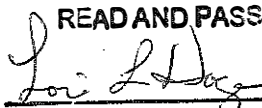
Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

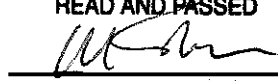

SECTION 1. Article I of Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence is hereby amended by adding thereto the following:

Sec. 18-22 - Sale or use of tobacco products in parks

- (a) For the purposes of this section, "Tobacco product" means any product containing tobacco or nicotine, including but not limited to cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, snus, dissolvable tobacco products, and electronic cigarettes; provided, however, that such term shall not include any product that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a tobacco cessation product.
- (b) The sale and use of any and all tobacco products is prohibited in all parks, playgrounds, and recreational centers owned by the City of Providence, unless a permit is granted in writing by the Superintendent of Parks for the sale and/or use of tobacco products at a particular site for a specific time frame.
- (c) The prohibition on use of tobacco products does not apply to individuals traveling in a vehicle on any public road that runs through a city park.
- (d) Any violation of this ordinance is hereby declared to be a public nuisance punishable by a civil fine of \$50. Each sale and/or use shall be deemed a separate violation, and each shall be subject to a separate fine.

SECTION 2. This ordinance will take effect ninety (90) days from its passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL
DEC 04 2014
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

CLERK
ACTIVE

IN CITY
COUNCIL
DEC 08 2014
FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

PRESIDENT

CLERK
ACTIVE

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 12/11/14



Michael Fine, MD, Director

Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov

November 28, 2014

Councilman Seth Yurdin, Chair
Committee on Ordinances
Providence City Council
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: An Ordinance Amending Article I, "in General" Of Chapter 18, "Parks And Recreation," Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Providence, By Adding Thereto Section 18-22, Entitled, "Sale Or Use Of Tobacco Products In Parks."

Dear Councilman Yurdin:

It is my understanding that the Providence City Council Committee on Ordinances will consider the above referenced ordinance that comprehensively defines tobacco products and will prohibit the sale and use of these products in all city owned parks, playgrounds and recreational centers.

I enthusiastically support this proposal and applaud your efforts and those of the City Council in putting it forward.

Secondhand smoke is a hazardous substance which contains more than 4,000 chemicals, more than 50 of which are known or suspected to cause cancer. The U.S. Surgeon General has declared that there is no "risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke".

Adoption of this proposed ordinance in Providence will create a benchmark and model that will further public health efforts across the state by creating healthful environments for exercise and activities both indoors and out. In addition, the ordinance will help normalize smoke free environments, and will reduce the litter created by discarded cigarette butts that can be ingested by children and animals.

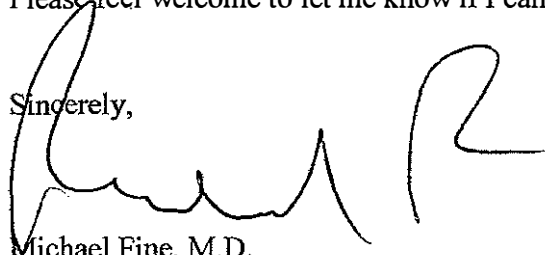
State policy banning public smoking in state parks and beaches has proven to be successful in providing these benefits, and has done so without burdening the enforcement agency, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Rhode Island is known for beautiful beaches and parks, public areas for residents and visitors alike where you can find children and families bathing, biking, strolling and picnicking. This proposal, when adopted, will help make our public places healthier and even more enjoyable.

Thank you and your colleagues for your work and leadership in moving forward with an ordinance that bans tobacco sales and use in all Providence parks. You have my wholehearted support.

Please feel welcome to let me know if I can offer further assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Fine', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Michael Fine, M.D.

Cc: Providence City Council