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CITY OF WOONSOCKET
RHODE ISLAND



May 15, 2013

ORDINANCE
CHAPTER

IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES,
ENTITLED, "PARKS AND RECREATION"

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has determined that tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the United States, that there is no risk-free level of contact with second hand smoke, and even brief exposure can be harmful to health; and

WHEREAS, more people die in this country each year from cigarette smoking than from alcohol, traffic accidents, cocaine and heroin, AIDS, murder and suicide combined, and smoking tobacco causes cancer, heart disease, stroke and lung disease; and

WHEREAS, the City of Woonsocket believes that tobacco use in the proximity of children and adults engaging in or watching outdoor recreational activities at city-owned or operated facilities is detrimental to their health and can be offensive to those using such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Woonsocket has a unique opportunity to create and sustain a smoke-free, clean air environment supported by adult-peer role modeling on city-owned property in order to protect everyone's right to breathe clean, smoke-free air; and

WHEREAS, cigarettes, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground, requiring additional maintenance expenses, diminishing the beauty of Woonsocket's recreational facilities, and posing a risk to young children and animals due to ingestion; and

WHEREAS, State law and/or ordinances have been passed regulating smoking in schools, public places and the work place; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Woonsocket Prevention Coalition to prohibit smoking at all athletic fields, playgrounds, parks and outdoor recreational facilities in the City of Woonsocket; and

WHEREAS, the Woonsocket Prevention Coalition has agreed to support the cost of smoke-free outdoor signage to be posted at all fields and playgrounds to further deter the use of tobacco and exposure of second hand tobacco smoke in publicly owned facilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Woonsocket Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, entitled, "Parks and Recreation," is hereby amended as follows:

ADD:

Section 15-1. Smoking in public parks or recreation areas prohibited.

(a) Smoking is prohibited at all athletic fields, playgrounds, parks and outdoor recreation facilities, including, but not limited to, Cass Park, Globe Park, Dunn Park, Costa Park, Cold Spring Park, Bernon Park, Kendrick Playground, Phyllis Thomas Park, River's Edge Complex, River Island Park, Soucy Falls, Bouley Field, Menard Field, Ayotts Field, Hartnett Field, Dione Track and Renaud Field.

(b) The Director of the Department of Public Works shall post "smoke-free outdoors" signage at the locations identified in Section (a) where the signs will be conspicuous and readily visible by the general public. The absence of signs required by this ordinance shall not be a defense to a violation of this Ordinance.

(c) No ash can, ashtray, or other smoking waste receptacles shall be placed or permitted in any area in which smoking is prohibited by this Ordinance. The presence of smoking waste receptacles in violation of this ordinance shall not be a defense to a violation of this ordinance.

(d) Any violation of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and any instance of smoking in violation of the Ordinance shall constitute a separate violation, punishable by a fine of not less than \$100.00.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to accept the donation from the Woonsocket Prevention Coalition of "smoke-free outdoors" signage to be posted at all city parks and facilities identified in Section 15-1(1).

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect on the eleventh consecutive day following its passage by the City Council as provided in Chapter III, Section 9, of the Woonsocket Home Rule Charter and all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.



John F. Ward

IN CITY COUNCIL May 20, 2013 - Read by title and passed for the first time.