

# INTRO 9-9

ECLEG MAY08'12 AM10:27

## A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS MAZUR, HOGUES, LOUGHRAN, McCRACKEN & LORIGO

**RE: Establishing a Smoke-Free Policy for Erie County-owned Parks, Playgrounds, Beaches, Golf Courses and Recreational Areas**

WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General has determined that there is no safe level of secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, waste from tobacco use – including cigarette butts – is one of the largest sources of litter in our community, casting blight on public areas such as sidewalks and adding to the level of solid waste contaminating our water supply through run-off; and

WHEREAS, the outdoor environment is shared by smokers and non-smokers alike, necessitating the development of a public policy that protects Erie County residents from secondhand smoke -- whether they are in indoor or outdoor public spaces; and

WHEREAS, recently, New York State government took the bold step of declaring playgrounds and recreations areas in the State parks system to be smoke-free; and

WHEREAS, there is ample precedent for local governments in Erie County to move in the direction of a healthier, less polluted community, as demonstrated by smoke-free initiatives launched by the city of Lackawanna; towns of Alden, Amherst, Clarence, Eden Colden, Lancaster, Orchard Park and Tonawanda; the villages of Angola, East Aurora, Kenmore, North Collins, Springville and Williamsville; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the Erie County Legislature to encourage the designation of the parks, beaches, playgrounds, golf courses and other recreation areas owned by Erie County government to be smoke-free and family-friendly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature convey its support for a smoke-free environment throughout the Erie County system of parks and recreational areas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that representatives of the Erie County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Environment & Planning, the Erie County Health Department, and the Tobacco-Free Coalition of Roswell Park Cancer Institute be invited to attend an upcoming meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee to discuss the next steps for Erie County to proceed in addressing this very important public health issue; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby directed to convey certified copies of this resolution to the above listed stakeholders, as well as the Erie County Executive.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution.