



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: June 16, 2015
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Steven Zoet, Director of Community Services
Subject: Smokeless Tobacco Restrictions in Public Parks

INTRODUCTION

The Director of Community Services will be presenting the topic of smokeless tobacco restrictions in public parks to the Recreation and Parks Commission on June 23, 2015. This discussion item is in response to Councilmember Mirisch's inquiry about restricting smokeless tobacco products in the City's sports amenities.

DISCUSSION

Restricting smokeless tobacco in the City's athletic venues would be equivalent to restricting smokeless tobacco at City owned parks and the Beverly Hills Unified School District's fields. Currently, the City's smoking ordinance does not ban the use of smokeless tobacco products, i.e. chew and snuff, in the City's parks. The ordinance only covers regulations on smoking and vaping. Therefore, people can currently chew tobacco or use snuff in City owned parks without enforcement capabilities. However, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) does restrict all tobacco related products on their campuses and school fields. BHUSD's policies restrict smoking, vaping, chew, snuff and other tobacco products since they are a tobacco-free district. These regulations apply to students or anyone using or visiting the school property.

In regards to regulating smokeless tobacco products in the City's parks, the Director of Community Services has the ability to implement rules and restrictions, but this is usually done first by vetting the process through the Recreation and Parks Commission. This process ensures that the topic is publicly discussed prior to implementation. Therefore, the Commission is scheduled to review this item at their upcoming meeting on June 23, 2016.

FISCAL IMPACT

Rules of park use and conduct are posted within each of the City's designated parks. With respects to tobacco products, current rules only stipulate that no smoking is allowed within the City's park system. Therefore, new signage inclusive of the restrictions of smokeless tobacco will need to be created. Staff estimates the cost of updating and replacing posted park signage to be approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000.

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RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes only. The Recreation and Parks Commission will be discussing this item and providing further direction at their upcoming meeting on June 23, 2015.

Steven Zoet
Approved By

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