

ORDINANCE NO. 27841

BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LADENBURG, STRICKLAND, AND TALBERT

AN ORDINANCE relating to the park code; amending Chapter 8.27 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, prohibiting smoking in all City parks.

WHEREAS the City's parks are intended for the healthy enjoyment of all citizens, including children and youth, and

WHEREAS Metro Parks Tacoma staff has reported that smoking and tobacco use in parks has resulted in litter of cigarette butts, cigar butts, and other tobacco-related waste, which studies have shown can cause environmental degradation and pose a health risk to children and animals, and

WHEREAS the City Council, through its Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee, received testimony from representatives of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department that smoking and tobacco use, including secondhand smoke, has been linked with the development of lung cancer, heart attack, low birth weight, bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, chronic respiratory problems, and eye and nasal irritation, and

WHEREAS studies have shown that children and youth exposed to smoking and tobacco use are more likely to smoke when they get older, and

WHEREAS many parks in the City contain brush and trees, which can be combustible, particularly in the dry summer months, and the parks do not contain facilities for disposing of tobacco products and tobacco products that are not completely extinguished pose an increased risk of fire, and

WHEREAS, in spring 2009, Metro Parks Tacoma, along with Tacoma-Pierce County Public Health, requested that the Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee (“Committee”) examine the issue of a citywide ban of smoking in all public parks within the City limits of Tacoma in order to promote public health and safety, and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2009, and August 13, 2009, the Committee discussed the item and deliberated on the policy objectives and the scope of the policy before deciding upon the policy goals of public health, litter concerns, and fire dangers in the ordinance, and


WHEREAS the Committee gave a “do pass” recommendation for the all-encompassing smoking ban in City parks,

WHEREAS, if implemented, the proposed ordinance will require “No Smoking” signage to be in place in order to be effective, and

WHEREAS the City will be responsible for all municipally owned park signage; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That Chapter 8.27 of the Tacoma Municipal Code is amended,
as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."

Passed _____ 

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Deputy City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"

8.27.085 Smoking in parks prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to smoke or light cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, or other smoking material within a park. The Director or City Manager shall post signs in appropriate locations, prohibiting smoking in parks.

For the purposes of this section, "smoke" or "smoking" means the carrying, holding, or smoking of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or any other lighted smoking equipment.

A violation of this section is a class 4 civil infraction \$25, not including statutory assessments. Such penalty is in addition to any other remedies or penalties provided by law.