



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

March 27, 2023

Caroline Harris
Columbia County Board of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 1529
Lake City, FL 32056-1529

Attention: Ellen Snyder

Dear Caroline Harris:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of Columbia County Ordinance No. 2023-04, which was filed in this office on March 27, 2023.

Sincerely,

Anya Owens
Program Administrator

ACO/wlh

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROHIBITING SMOKING AND VAPING IN PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, tobacco use causes death and disease and continues to be an urgent public health threat, as evidenced by the following:

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that tobacco kills up to half of its users, amounting to more than 8 million deaths each year worldwide, including nearly half a million people who die prematurely from smoking in the United States alone¹;
2. Tobacco use causes disease in nearly all organ systems and is responsible for an estimated 87% of lung cancer deaths, 32% of coronary heart disease deaths, and 79% of all chronic obstructive pulmonary disease deaths in the United States²;
3. The estimated economic damage attributable to smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke in the United States is nearly \$300 billion annually³;
4. Despite significant progress, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States⁴;
5. Specifically, in Florida, 29.4% of cancer related deaths are attributable to smoking⁵.
6. Electronic vapor products have been found to contain nicotine, lead, formaldehyde, and thousands of other chemicals. These products damage DNA and harm parts of the brain responsible for learning and mental health⁶.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health. 2014. Available at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK179276/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK179276.pdf

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ State proportion of cancer deaths attributable to smoking from Lortet-Tieulent, J, et al., "State-Level Cancer Mortality Attributable to Cigarette Smoking in the United States," *JAMA Internal Medicine*, published online October 24, 2016.

⁶ Tehrani et al., 2021; Williams, et al., 2019; Romberg et al., 2019; Ogunwale et al., 2017; Latvala et al., 2014;

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke exposure is harmful and widespread, as evidenced by the following:

1. Children exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke have an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome, asthma, physical and cognitive developmental abnormalities, and cancer;
2. The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's report, "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke," concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke;
3. The World Health Organization in 2007 declared that there is indisputable evidence that implementing 100% smoke-free environments is the only effective way to protect the population from the harmful effects of exposure to secondhand smoke;
4. In Florida, 59% of children between ages 11 and 17 report being exposed to secondhand smoke from cigarettes or electronic vapor products;

WHEREAS, there is emerging evidence that exposure to the aerosol produced by a vapor-generating electronic device may be harmful, as evidenced by the following:

1. E-cigarettes produce an aerosol that contains at least ten chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm.⁷
2. Bystanders exposed to e-cigarette aerosol can also absorb its nicotine.⁸
3. The aerosol is made up of a high concentration of ultrafine particles, and the particle concentration is higher than in conventional tobacco cigarette smoke.⁹
4. Exposure to fine and ultrafine particles may exacerbate respiratory ailments like asthma and constrict arteries which could trigger a heart attack.¹⁰

National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2020.

⁷ California Tobacco Control Program, California Department of Public Health. State Health Officer's Report on E-Cigarettes: A Community Health Threat. Sacramento, CA. 2015. Available at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDC/DCDC/CTCB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Policy/ElectronicSmokingDevices/StateHealthEcigReport.pdf>.

⁸ Ballbé M, Martínez-Sánchez JM. Cigarettes vs. E-Cigarettes: Passive Exposure at Home Measured by Means of Airborne Marker and Biomarkers. *Environmental Research* 2014;135:76–80 [accessed 2015 Jun 2].

⁹ Fuoco, F.C.; Buonanno, G.; Stabile, L.; Vigo, P., "Influential parameters on particle concentration and size distribution in the mainstream of e-cigarettes," *Environmental Pollution* 184: 523-529, January 2014.

¹⁰ Grana, R; Benowitz, N; Glantz, S. "Background Paper on E-cigarettes," Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, University of California, San Francisco and WHO Collaborating Center on Tobacco Control. December 2013.

WHEREAS, tobacco waste is a major, consequential, and persistent source of litter, as evidenced by the following:

1. The roughly 6.3 trillion cigarettes smoked globally each year result in 300 billion packs that produce almost 2 million tons of wastepaper, cellophane, foil, and glue as well as trillions of butts littered across roadways, sidewalks, parks, and other green spaces^{11,12}
2. Both tobacco industry and peer-reviewed research found that most smokers admit littering their cigarette butts^{13,53,54} for example, one study found 74.1% of smokers admitted littering cigarette butts at least once in their life and 55.7% admitted to littering them in the past month¹⁴;
3. In an observational study of nearly 10,000 individuals, 65% of smokers disposed of their cigarette butts as litter¹⁵;
4. Cigarette butts are perennially the most common form of litter collected during cleanup programs worldwide. For example, in 2018, cigarette butts made up nearly 16% of all litter collected through cleanup programs in the U.S. (809,538 out of 5,106,515 items)
5. Cigarette butts are often cast onto sidewalks and streets, and frequently end up in storm drains that flow into streams, rivers, bays, lagoons, and ultimately the ocean¹⁶;
6. As of August 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognizes nicotine- containing electronic smoking devices as acute hazardous waste when disposed properly¹⁷;

WHEREAS, cigarette butts, smokeless tobacco, and electronic smoking devices pose a health threat of poisoning to young children, as evidenced by the following:

¹¹ Novotny TE, Lum K, Smith E, Wang V, Barends R. Cigarettes Butts and the Case for an Environmental Policy on Hazardous Cigarette Waste. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2009;6(5):1691-1705. doi: 10.3390/ijerph6051691.

¹² Novotny TE, Aguinaga Bialous S, Burt L, et al. The environmental and health impacts of tobacco agriculture, cigarette manufacture and consumption. *Bull World Health Organ*. 2015;93(12):877-880. doi: 10.2471/BLT.15.152744.

¹³ Smith EA, Novotny TE. Whose Butt Is It? Tobacco Industry Research About Smokers and Cigarette Butt Waste. *Tob Control*. 2011;20(Suppl 1):i2-9. doi: 10.1136/tc.2010.040105.

¹⁴ Rath JM, Rubenstein R a, Curry LE, Shank SE, Cartwright JC. Cigarette litter: Smokers' attitudes and behaviors. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2012;9(6):2189-203. doi:10.3390/ijerph9062189.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Novotny TE, Lum K, Smith E, Wang V, Barends R. Cigarettes Butts and the Case for an Environmental Policy on Hazardous Cigarette Waste. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2009;6(5):1691-1705. doi: 10.3390/ijerph6051691

¹⁷ Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; EPA Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals and Amendment to the P075 Listing for Nicotine, 84 Fed. Reg. § 5816 (August 21, 2019) (to be codified at 40 C.F.R. pt. 266(p)).

1. In 2018, American poison control centers logged nearly 13,000 cases involving exposure to cigarettes, cigarette butts, electronic smoking devices, or other tobacco products, and of these, more than 10,000 (79.0%) occurred in children aged 5 years and younger¹⁸;
2. Among the 10,266 cases of nicotine and tobacco product exposure recorded in 2018 among children 5 years of age and younger by American poison control centers, 50.3% involved cigarettes, 18.4% involved electronic smoking devices, and 8.0% involved other tobacco products¹⁹;
3. The annual number of electronic cigarette exposure cases among children less than 5 years of age reported to American poison control centers increased from 10 in 2010 to 1,835 in 2018, a 14,015% increase²⁰; and
4. Children who ingest tobacco products can experience vomiting, nausea, lethargy, and gagging, with e-liquids potentially posing a greater risk of toxicity or fatality through either ingestion or transdermal absorption²¹;

WHEREAS, Florida cities and counties have the legal authority to adopt local laws that prohibit smoking in public parks.

NOW THEREFORE, in order to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare, reduce unwanted and unwelcome exposure to secondhand smoke, assure cleaner and more hygienic parks for Columbia County, its residents, and visitors, it is the intent of the County Commission, in enacting this ordinance, to prohibit smoking and vaping in parks which are used by or open to the public and to prohibit smoking and vaping waste in those areas thereby affirming and promoting a healthy environment in the County.

Section 1. RECITALS INCORPORATED. The above recitals are incorporated herein.

Section 2. DEFINITIONS. The following words and phrases, whenever used in

¹⁸Gummin DD, Mowry JB, Spyker DA, et al. 2018 Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers' National Poison Data System (NPDS): 36th Annual Report. *Clin Toxicol.* 2019;57(12):1220-1413. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2019.1677022.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Wang B, Liu S, Peroškie A. Poisoning Exposure Cases Involving E-Cigarettes and E-Liquid in the United States, 2010- 2018. *Clin Toxicol.* 2020;58(6):488-494. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2019.

²¹ Chang JT, Rostron BL. Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) Liquid Nicotine Exposure in Young Children Present- ing to US Emergency Departments, 2018. *Inj Epidemiol.* 2019;6:43. doi: 10.1186/s40621-019-0219-6.

this part shall have the meanings defined in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (a) "Electronic Smoking Device" means an electronic device that may be used to deliver any aerosolized or vaporized substance to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, vape pen, or e-hookah.
- (b) "Park" means all public property specifically designated as being used for outdoor recreational or park purposes and where children regularly congregate. "Outdoor recreational or park purposes" includes, but is not limited to, boating, golfing, camping, swimming, horseback riding, and archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites and applies only to land which is open to the general public.
- (c) "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, or possessing any lighted tobacco product, including cigarettes, filtered cigars, pipe tobacco, and any other lighted tobacco product whether natural or synthetic. "Smoking" also means using an electronic smoking device or any other plant product intended for inhalation, including hookah and marijuana. For the purposes of this policy only, smoking does not include the use of unfiltered cigars (pursuant to Florida Statute 386.209).
- (d) "Tobacco Product" means:
 - (1) any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco, nicotine or nicotine analogues that is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether inhaled, absorbed, or ingested by any other means, including but not limited to, a cigarette, a cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus;
 - (2) any electronic smoking device as defined in this [article/chapter] and any substances that may be aerosolized or vaporized by such device, whether or not the substance contains nicotine; or
 - (3) any component, part, accessory, of (1) or (2), whether or not any of these contains tobacco or nicotine, including but not limited to filters, rolling papers, blunt or hemp wraps, hookahs, and pipes."Tobacco Product" does not mean drugs, devices, or combination products authorized for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- (e) "Tobacco Product Waste" means any material that is left over and regularly intended to be discarded after the use or consumption of a tobacco product. Tobacco Product Waste includes, but is not limited to, discarded cigarette butt filters, cigar or cigarillo tips, cigarette packs, cigar or cigarillo wrappers, electronic smoking devices of all types, electronic smoking device cartridges

or refill containers, plastic packaging, foil, or other disposable tobacco product remnants or tobacco product packaging in any form.

- (f) "Vaping" means the inhaling, exhaling, or holding of an activated electronic smoking device.

Section 3. PROHIBITION OF TOBACCO USE IN RECREATIONAL AREAS.

Smoking and the use of all other tobacco products is prohibited in all parks within the incorporated limits of Columbia County, Florida. Unfiltered cigars are exempted under 386.209, Florida Statutes.

Section 4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS.

- (a) No person shall dispose of tobacco product waste in any park.
- (b) The County Manager or their designee shall post at least one clear, conspicuous and unambiguous "No Smoking or Vaping" sign at each point of ingress to the area, and in at least one other conspicuous location where individuals congregate (such as restrooms, playgrounds, or buildings) within each recreational area. For purposes of this section, the County Manager or their designee shall be responsible for the posting of signs in regulated facilities owned or leased in whole or in part by the County. Notwithstanding this provision, the presence or absence of signs shall not be a defense to a charge of smoking in violation of any other provision of this ordinance.

Section 5. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT. The success of this policy depends on the consideration and cooperation of both tobacco-users and non-users. Individuals acting in violation of this policy will be reminded and asked to comply. Individuals who violate this policy may be asked to leave the park. Enforcement and fines for violation of this section shall be in accordance with general law.

Section 6. STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION & SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection or provision of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining sections or provisions of this ordinance or its application to any other person or circumstance. The Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County, Florida, hereby declares that it would have adopted each section,

subsection or provision hereof independently, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections or provisions hereof be declared invalid or unenforceable.

Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by Columbia County, Florida in accordance with the provisions of Florida Statutes.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida, this 23rd day of March 2023

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: Rocky Ford
ROCKY FORD, Chair

ATTEST: James M. Swisher, Jr., Clerk of Court

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Deputy Clerk

Effective Date: 3/27/23

Approved as to form and legality:

Joel F. Foreman
Joel F. Foreman, County Attorney

