



MEMORANDUM

Date: Oct 25, 2023
To: Board of Commissioners
From: Robin I. Gomez, City Manager
Subject: Discuss/Review Smoking/Vaping on Public Parks and Beach/Sand

Background

In 2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill 105 amending the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act allowing cities and counties to restrict smoking at public beaches and parks subject to certain exceptions including unfiltered cigars.

Discussion:

For various health and environmental reasons, various cities including Treasure Island, Clearwater, St Petersburg, Belleair Bluffs, etc., have adopted ordinances regulating smoking making it unlawful, except for the smoking of unfiltered cigars, in public parks and beaches owned and operated by the applicable city.

Cigarette butts are one of the most found litter items on our beach and parks and one of the more difficult to remove. Additionally, cigarette butts can cause ingestion hazards to wildlife, can detract from a healthy environment, and can reduce the enjoyment of the City's public beach and parks for individuals and families desirous of enjoying a smoke-free environment.

Should the City Commission wish to pursue adopting a similar smoking restriction ordinance, City staff would review the potential business impact and return a proposed ordinance at a future Commission regular meeting for a 1st reading and a public hearing.

Enforcement would occur by a continuous educational and information campaign, additional signage, followed by warnings to individuals observed smoking, followed by the issuance of a citation/violation/ticket by deputies upon the completion of the first 3 months of the educational/information campaign.

Enclosed are the ordinances used by the cities St Petersburg and Belleair Bluffs.

Fiscal Impact

Cost of additional signage and/or additional dedicated enforcement (PCSO extra-duty deputies)