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## **Spring Lake Forbids Smoking Along Beaches, Boardwalk**

Christopher Robbins, May 14, 2014

SPRING LAKE – Smoking along New Jersey's longest uninterrupted stretch of boardwalk has just been extinguished.

By a unanimous vote, the Spring Lake Borough Council to ban smoking on its boardwalk, beaches and near access points along its waterfront, extending a previous prohibition along the entire waterfront, Mayor Jennifer Naughton said..

“This is extending our smoking ban, which was typically on the beach and around the pavilions and their entranceways,” Naughton said. “It is now on the boardwalk and all those entranceways.

The borough’s decision follows a similar move by Belmar, its neighbor to its north, and was motivated in part by concerns that smokers would leave Belmar and take refuge in Spring Lake.

“We need to consider the complete ban, Belmar just went to the complete ban and they I believe did previously have designated areas,” Councilman Brendan Judge said. “Our ordinance should be no less restrictive than the surrounding communities. I support the ordinance as written.”

If cited, smokers and litterers could be subjected to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 and/or a period of community service not exceeding 90 days.

Spring Lake residents on hand supported the council’s decision.

“I don’t want to walk by anybody smoking a cigarette, and I don’t want the council to make it more comfortable for them,” resident Harry Zarb said.

Spring Lake joins nearly 20 communities along the shore that have made smoking verboten along their waterfront.

Council members were concerned that the ordinance might create a litter problem along Ocean Avenue, which parallels the borough’s boardwalk.

“I have no problem with the ordinance, I think we should try to say ‘here’s a spot for smokers,’” Councilman David Frost said. “My concern is where are we going to push them out to?”

Frost and Councilman Joseph Erbe argued that the borough’s beach committee should explore ways to minimize cigarette and cigar litter and prevent smokers from crossing Ocean Avenue to smoke on private property.

But Zarb said the council should stand by its ordinance.

“When it comes down to making a choice of whether we should reach out and provide some assistance to the smokers or the nonsmokers, that’s a no-brainer,” Zarb said. “Smoking is bad.”

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