

Gloucester City News (cnbnews.net)

## Gloucester City's No Smoking Ordinance has Tobacco Users Fired Up!

*"One thing it will prevent is the littering of the business district. People for some reason see the need to throw their butts and plastic packaging on the ground. This in turn enters our rivers and streams."*

*~Gloucester City Police Chief George Berglund*

**by William E. Cleary Sr.**

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GLOUCESTER CITY NJ ([CNBNews.net](http://CNBNews.net))—Gloucester City Police Chief George Berglund issued a warning on social networks earlier this week regarding the City's new law banning smoking in the Monmouth Street Business District.

He writes,

The City has established a no smoking area from the railroad tracks to Atlantic street along Monmouth street. Officers will initially give warnings for the next two weeks and then issue a ticket. If someone was already warned then they will be issued a ticket. We are asking that everyone cooperates with the police department as we begin the enforcement phase. Signs were posted throughout the area.

Under the new law it is illegal for any person to use tobacco products by smoking on streets, sidewalks, stoops, curbs and steps in that area, including Monmouth Street to Atlantic Street and Railroad Avenue. Tobacco products shall mean any substance containing tobacco leaf, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis or another preparation of tobacco. Fines range from \$100 up to \$1,000. The ordinance became law on Sept. 18, 2014.

After it was enacted we asked City Solicitor John Kearney [why such a law was needed?](#)

"Based upon what was said at the public meeting Council's concerns were the litter produced by smokers, the general ill health impacts of second

hand smoke and an effort to spruce up the Monmouth Street business corridor to make it more attractive to shoppers and visitors,” Kearney said.

The Monmouth Street Business District consist of the municipal building, two banks, accountant, pharmacy, beauty salon, insurance office, restaurant, barber, three semi-detached homes, dentist, grocery store, two flower shops. There are also two buildings that house organizations, specifically the Knights of Columbus and the Independent Citizens Athletic Club (ICAC), located on the corner of Monmouth Street and Champion Road. Both organizations rent their buildings to the public for social events. In all there are 21 buildings in the business district, four of those are presently empty.

<http://www.gloucestercitynews.net/clearysnotebook/2014/10/no-smoking-ban-in-gloucester-city-has-people-up-in-arms.html>