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North Bergen commissioners to vote tonight on banning smoking in township parks

By [Michaelangelo Conte/The Jersey Journal](#)

on March 13, 2013 at 8:00 AM, updated March 13, 2013 at 8:04 AM

NORTH BERGEN An ordinance that would ban smoking in township parks is up for adoption at tonight's commissioners meeting.

"While smoking does not seem to be very prevalent in North Bergen parks now, Mayor (Nicholas) Sacco and the commissioners felt that it was necessary to consider this ordinance in the interest of public health, especially since the parks are commonly used by children," North Bergen spokesman Phil Swibinski said yesterday.

The ordinance, which was introduced last month, would ban smoking in all public parks and properties including outdoors, Swibinski said. North Bergen resident Gerald Reiner brought up the possibility of a smoking ban at a commissioners meeting. Sacco later discussed the matter with Reiner and then instructed the township attorney to craft an ordinance, Swibinski said.

If passed, the ordinance would impose a \$50 fine for a first offense and higher fines for subsequent offenses. If the ordinance is adopted, signs will be posted in the parks informing the public of the ban, Swibinski said.

Tonight's meeting is at Township Hall, 4233 Kennedy Blvd., starting at 5 p.m. There will be an opportunity for public comment.

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