

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MEDIA INQUIRIES**

May 23, 2011

**CONTACT: Karen Blumenfeld, Esq.** Executive Director, Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy

(908) 377-3900 cell [www.njgasp.org](http://www.njgasp.org)

GASP is available for interviews, commentaries, plus technical assistance on outdoor smokefree air law trends in the USA.

### **New York City and Philadelphia Start 100% Outdoor Smokefree Recreational Areas Laws on May 23, 2011**

Summit, NJ, May 20, 2011 — May 23, 2011 marks a historical day for both New York City and Philadelphia. Both cities go 100% smokefree in outdoor city recreational areas.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed the City Council ordinance on February 22, 2011, taking effect in 90 days, which is May 23. The New York City law bans smoking at all outdoor recreational areas under New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation.

"We are thrilled that both New York City and Philadelphia are creating safe, smokefree outdoor recreational areas that protect people from secondhand smoke, preserve the environment from toxic cigarette butts and will save the cities time and money in park maintenance costs," states Karen Blumenfeld, Esq., Executive Director of Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy.

Starting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, all 1,700 New York City public parks, pedestrian plazas such as Times Square, golf courses, playgrounds, recreation centers, all 14 miles of public beaches, pools, boardwalks, marinas, and all other property, equipment, buildings and facilities now or hereafter under the jurisdiction, charge or control of the department of parks and recreation, will be 100% smokefree. Fines are up to \$50 per offense.

On the same day, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter will sign an Executive order making City-owned recreational centers, playgrounds and pools 100% smokefree. Smoking will no longer be allowed anywhere on recreation center property, indoors or outdoors, including playgrounds, ball fields, courts, parking lots, lawns, and pool areas. Philadelphia's Health Commissioner Donald Schwarz, and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mike DiBerardinis plan to join Mayor Nutter at the

Executive Order signing ceremony and press conference at 1 pm on May 23, at the Kingsessing Recreational Center, 4901 Kingsessing Avenue, Philadelphia.

“Communities across the country want to protect public health from secondhand smoke, which can be just as dangerous outside as inside,” says Blumenfeld. See GASP’s white paper on the benefits of 100% smokefree outdoor areas at <http://njgasp.org/Outdoor%20bans%20white%20paper.pdf>

See today’s front page story in the Asbury Park Press showing public support for such policies. <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011305190118>

###

Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public on the benefits of smokefree environments.

[www.njgasp.org](http://www.njgasp.org)