

Harvey Cedars Bans Smoking on Beach Between the Flags

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Photo by: Staff Photo

Harvey Cedars has introduced an ordinance to ban smoking at Sunset Park and on the beach between flags while lifeguards are on duty.

Harvey Cedars has followed Ship Bottom's lead by introducing an ordinance last week that will ban smoking on the beach between the flags while lifeguards are on duty. In addition, the ordinance will prohibit use of tobacco products at all times in Sunset Park. Previously, smoking was banned only in the children's playground area.

A public hearing on the ordinance is scheduled for the borough commission meeting on Friday, July 16, at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Jonathan Oldham said the areas between the flags are where most of the families with children park their blankets and beach chairs.

"We don't want people, especially the kids, to continue being bothered by second-hand smoke," said Oldham. "If people want to smoke, there are plenty of areas away from the flags."

The mayor said lifeguards and badge checkers would be responsible for enforcing the ordinance.

"In the beginning, we'll want to educate people about the ordinance and look to give warnings if they light up," he said. "We hope that we don't have any situation where the police would have to be called. We're hoping people will be cooperative."

Oldham said it would make little sense to ban smoking on the entire beach.

"This is a reasonable compromise," he said. "If there was no smoking anywhere on the beach, then people would just hang out by the street ends at the beach entrances to smoke, and I think a lot of beachfront property owners would complain."

He said that at Sunset Park, smoking would be permitted only in the parking areas.

"We have our summer concerts and lot of other events there, and I think people should enjoy them without having to deal with cigarette smoke," said Borough Commissioner Michael Garofalo. —*E.E.*