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GROUP HOPES TO EDUCATE A.C. CASINOS ABOUT BENEFITS OF BEING SMOKE-FREE

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ATLANTIC CITY--A New Jersey organization continues to educate the gaming industry on the benefits of having smoke free casinos.

The group, Global Advisors Smokefree Policy, are still making their way around "The City That's Always Turned On" to convince area casinos to become a non-smoking zone for patrons.

Advocates say that visitors aren't the only ones in trouble; people who work in such environments are at risk as well, "Casino workers are exposed to very concentrated levels of secondhand smoke to levels that are beyond hazardous-the elements that patrons as well as a casino worker can get when exposed to second hand smoke clearly heart conditions asthma and of course increases risk of cancer," said Katherine Blumenfeld, the executive director of GASP.

 $\ln 2008,$ Atlantic City council passed an ordinance forcing casinos to go smoke free, but that only lasted a month.