

Resolution #9

Tobacco-Free Park and Playground Resolution

The Town of Bethlehem agrees to adopt the following resolution to create tobacco-free zones at town parks.

WHEREAS, smoking is responsible for premature deaths of over 440,000 Americans each year from lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is responsible for over 50,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year; and

WHEREAS, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, accidents, fires, and AIDS combined; and

WHEREAS, 80% of smokers started smoking before the age of 18, and the average initiation age is 12 years old; and

WHEREAS, everyday an estimated 3,900 young people under the age of 18 try their first cigarette and one-third of these children will die prematurely from tobacco related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, to help role model non-smoking behavior to children and youth; to provide children, youth and their families with a safe, smoke-free environment; and

WHEREAS, cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world and are highly toxic and dangerous to children and animals;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Bethlehem, County of Albany, and State of New York resolves that the areas of town owned park property including playgrounds, athletic fields (including seating and snack bar areas), pool complex, and all tennis and basketball courts be designated as tobacco-free zones.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall not apply to any town owned golf facilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, appropriate signage provided by the Capital District Tobacco Free Coalition will be posted designating tobacco-free zones.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Date March 9, 2011

AYES: Supervisor Messina, Councilman Hennessey, Councilman Jordan

NOES: none

ABSENT: Councilman Kotary, Councilwoman Dawson