



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM
Department of General Services
Parks and Recreation

Date: December 12, 2022

To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners

Through: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator
Beth Powell, Parks and Recreation Director

From: Gustavo Vergara, Parks and Recreation Asst. Director

Subject: Amending Indian River Code Chapter 205. – Parks and Recreation

BACKGROUND:

On June 17, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 105 (HB 105) amending the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act (FCIAA), which allows cities and counties to restrict smoking on City and County-owned public parks, excluding unfiltered cigars. This bill allows counties and municipalities to restrict smoking within public beach and park boundaries under their ownership.

Cigarette butts are the predominant pollutant on our coastal beaches. From January 2022 to October 2022, over 22,000 cigarette butts were cleaned up from the Indian River County's beaches. Cleanups like those conducted by the Weekly Wednesday Warriors, International Coastal Cleanup, and quarterly cleanups report cigarette butts, cigarette tips, E cigarettes, and tobacco packaging as the most common pollutant on our beaches. Cigarette butts, particularly the filters, can take anywhere from 18 months to 10 years to degrade. Inland parks and conservation areas are also affected negatively by litter produced from cigarettes and vaping devices.

Staff respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached ordinance amending Chapter 205 (Parks and Recreation) of the Indian River County Code of Ordinances making park and conservation boundaries smoke free, except for unfiltered cigars. Such prohibition would be consistent with HB 105.

FUNDING:

The cost to implement the update to the Code will include replacement signage which is a budgeted item in the General Fund/Parks/Other Operating Supplies account, number 00121072-035290. The overall cost is estimated to be under \$1,000.

Account Name	Account Number	Amount
General Fund/Parks/Other Operating Supplies	00121072-035290	\$1,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve the draft ordinance, amending the IRC Code to prohibit smoking and vaping (excluding unfiltered cigars) in public parks and beaches.