



April 9, 2018

RE: Agenda Item 9.1: Smoke-free, Vape-free Parks

Dear Sparks City Council:

The Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition supports smoke-free and vape-free parks. As the state coalition for tobacco control, our members include non-profits, state and local health authorities, health care organizations, academia and others. Our mission is to improve the health of all Nevadans by reducing the burden of tobacco use and nicotine addiction.

Tobacco use continues to be the most preventable cause of disease and death, its toll undeniable and well documented. The annual cost to Nevada is over \$1 billion for care and treatment, including Medicaid costs. The cost to employers in lost productivity is similar.

Prohibiting smoking and vaping in public places is an effective approach to fulfilling NTPC's mission as well as protecting people from exposure to secondhand smoke and the aerosol produced by electronic cigarettes and other vapor products. In 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General determined there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. While the science is less definitive on the health risks from secondhand aerosol exposure, it's not a question of if there is risk, but how much.

In the broader context, NTPC supports efforts that focus on healthy communities and sustainable living, understanding the role prohibiting tobacco and e-cigarette use can play in those efforts. The proposal before you today are important steps in that direction.

In closing, NTPC thanks the Council for its consideration to prohibit smoking and vaping in its parks. NTPC is willing and available to assist the Council in any way it can.

Sincerely,

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