



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Mayor*

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### *Media Release*

For Immediate Release  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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## Anti-Smoking Ordinance for Town Parks Effective as of October 1<sup>st</sup>

**HAMDEN** – Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is very pleased to remind residents that the new Anti-Smoking Ordinance, previously approved earlier this year by the Hamden Legislative Council, is officially in effect as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The ordinance bans the use of harmful tobacco products at Town parks, recreational facilities, and Public School grounds. The goal of this Ordinance is to enhance the health and safety of our residents and children by ensuring that Hamden’s parks, schools, and recreational areas remain free of the dangers of second-hand smoke. The new Ordinance will allow enforcement by the Hamden Police Department and violations will carry a fine of \$100.00. This is part of the Town’s expanded effort to make Hamden “Healthy, Clean & Green”. The goal of the Town is not to levy fines on anyone, but to promote public health and safe practices – however, if issuing a fine is necessary then appropriate action shall be taken.

Hamden’s anti-smoking ordinance has received overwhelming support from local elected officials, sports coordinators, athletic directors, parents, and teachers. Chairman of Hamden’s Parks & Recreation Commission, Rich Leonardo, Hamden Soccer Association President, Chris Ruggiero, and Quinnipiac Valley Health Department Director, Leslie Balch, have all issued statements of support for the anti-smoking ordinance.

Commenting on the Ordinance, Mayor Leng noted, “I am very proud to announce that Hamden’s newest anti-smoking ordinance is now in effect. To be good stewards of our parks and work in the best interest of our residents, we must work together to provide safe, clean, recreation areas. The dangers of second-hand smoke are well known, and no child should be subjected to these dangers when they are trying to play on the jungle gym or participate in a sport. I look forward to

realizing the positive results of this ordinance, and towards the next smoke-free season of events in Town Center Park and other locations throughout Hamden!”

The Town will continue to update signage which will identify “Tobacco Free Zones” throughout Hamden’s parks, playgrounds, and schools.