



**Rhode Island Department of Health**  
Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5094  
(401) 222-5960  
health.ri.gov

February 20, 2018

Suzanne McGee Cienki,  
President, Town Council  
East Greenwich Town Hall  
125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI, 02818

Dear President Cienki,

It is my understanding that on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, the East Greenwich Town Council will consider a new policy to prohibit smoking in East Greenwich town parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities, and recreation areas. This policy would also include a ban on "other uses of tobacco products" which includes electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS products, aka e-cigarettes, vapes). I applaud your efforts and those of the Town Council in this regard.

In 2015, 25.1% of Rhode Island high school students reported current use of one or more tobacco products (ENDS, cigars, smokeless, or cigarettes). ENDS were the most commonly used tobacco product (19.3%), followed by hookah (11.8%), cigars (8.4%), smokeless tobacco (5.3%), and then cigarettes (4.8%).

Secondhand smoke is a hazardous substance containing more than 7,000 chemicals, of which 70 are known or suspected to cause cancer. In fact, the U.S. Surgeon General has declared that there is no "risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke." The proposed policy before East Greenwich would further public health efforts across the state by creating healthful environments for outdoor exercise and activities. Additionally, it will help to normalize 100% tobacco-free environments and eliminate the garbage created by littered cigarette butts that leach toxins and can be ingested by children and animals.

Rhode Island is known for its beautiful beaches and parks where you can find children and families bathing, biking, strolling and picnicking. This proposal will make our public places healthier and even more enjoyable. Thank you, in advance, for moving forward with a policy to ban smoking and all other tobacco use on East Greenwich's parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities, and recreation areas. You have my wholehearted support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole Alexander-Scott", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH  
Director of Rhode Island Department of Health

cc: Town Manager, Gayle Corrigan