

Ban On Hookah Parlors Protects The Next Generation

On Tuesday evening, July 22, Mayor Reginald Spinello and the Glen Cove City Council successfully enacted protective legislation banning and prohibiting hookah parlors in all zoning districts in the city. This legislation comes on the heels of the city's recently passed legislation on May 13 establishing additional restrictions regarding tobacco in an effort to reduce youth initiation.

SAFE and its community-based SAFE PRIDE Project Coalition has been working with Carol Meschkow of the Tobacco Action Coalition on a statewide initiative "Seen Enough" campaign to combat youth cigarette and tobacco product use by teaching students about the power of cigarette and tobacco marketing in local stores, and in advertising in general. The coalition's School Committee Chaired by Denise Kiernan, director of athletics and physical education, works with student groups, SALT and Teens and Teachers to facilitate the campaign throughout the schools.

Members of the SAFE PRIDE Project Coalition are composed of SAFE Board of Directors and staff, city officials, school district representation, the Glen Cove Police Department, local not for profits, clergy, the business district and community volunteers are swiftly achieving their goal of changing societal norms about alcohol, tobacco and substance use in Glen Cove. The coalition is committed to reducing youth's exposure to addictive substances and will continue to work with Carol Meschkow going forward.

When addressing the mayor and city council, Georgie Connett, SAFE Board Chair, said, "While every adult has a legal right to smoke, the City of Glen Cove has chosen not to condone it. Thank you to the mayor and city council for their wisdom to provide a healthy environment for our youth and all the people of Glen Cove."

"Protecting our youth from becoming the next generation of smokers is an important challenge,

and I am so grateful for the partnership with SAFE's PRIDE Project Coalition, the school district and the efforts of the city," said Meschkow. "It is apparent Mayor Spinello and the city council have been on a crusade with their recent sweeping legislation to reduce youth initiation and have emerged as tobacco champions by establishing a benchmark for the first municipality in Nassau County to ban hookah lounges. Per former Surgeon General Benjamin, youth exposure to the Big Tobacco's marketing efforts had risen to a level that it has become a pediatric epidemic."

For further information on SAFE, Inc. PRIDE Project Coalition and their initiatives contact Coalition Coordinator Aimee Abraham at 516-676-2008. SAFE Inc. is a not-for-profit tax-exempt substance abuse education and prevention agency located in Glen Cove. Visit www.safeglencove.org and at www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition.

— From Safe, Inc.