



**For Immediate Release  
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PRIDE Project Coalition**

**Photo by SAFE**

### **City recognizes SAFE for smoke-free initiatives**

Due to the efforts of SAFE, Inc., smoking in Glen Cove parks, beaches and recreational areas will no longer be tolerated.

SAFE, Inc. officially presented Tobacco Free signage for posting at Glen Cove parks, beaches and recreational areas at a City of Glen Cove meeting on Dec. 10, 2013.

Georgie Connett, SAFE's Board Chair addressed the Mayor and City Council, thanking them for their support of the environmental strategies SAFE seeks to implement. She personally acknowledged Councilmen Jiminez and Gallo for their participation in SAFE's PRIDE Project Coalition and also thanked Mayor Suozzi for his dedication to keeping Glen Cove's environment healthy. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of SAFE, Ms. Connett said she looks forward to working with the new administration to foster and develop new healthy initiatives for the community.

SAFE partnered with Carol Meschkow, Nassau Coordinator of the Tobacco Action Coalition, in their work to ensure that Glen Cove joined over 400 other municipalities in New York State who have also adopted the overall Tobacco Free Outdoor Program.

Tobacco remains the number one preventable cause of death. 400,000 lives a year are lost due to cigarette smoking, and approximately 90 percent of all smokers start by their early twenties. Each year 22,500 youth in New York State become new daily smokers. The tobacco free signs are one of SAFE, Inc. initiatives to help prevent the next generation from smoking.

"We are so appreciative, and would like to extend kudos to the city for their fine work in protecting the residents, employees, and the environment from the dangers of secondhand smoke, cigarette litter, and helping to change the social norms associated with the acceptability of tobacco use," said Meschkow. "Our next generation is our future, and their health and safety is obviously of paramount concern to this city."

SAFE, Inc. was also honored recently by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). They announced they will feature a photo of SAFE, Inc. on the cover of CADCA's "Recommended Interventions to Reduce Tobacco Use and Secondhand Smoke Exposure" brochure. CADCA's resources and training materials are used by hundreds of public health professionals and behavioral healthcare officials all committed to promoting public health by advancing data-driven approaches for the prevention of underage tobacco use.

For further information on any 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 our website at [www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org) and follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition).