



Courtesy SAFE

SAFE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Sharon Harris, left, with Glen Cove Police Deputy Chief Chris Ortiz, Chief William Whitton and TAC LI's Manager Carol Meschkow put up signs prohibiting smoking or vaping on police grounds.

Keeping Glen Cove SAFE

The Glen Cove Police Department officially became a partner of the Substance Abuse Free Environment and the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island advocacy groups on July 29. Along with the partnership, the Glen Cove Police Headquarters have been designated as a tobacco-free area, which would prohibit any smoking or vaping of tobacco substances on police grounds.

SAFE, a non-profit organization operating in Glen Cove, provides alcohol and drug prevention services throughout the city. Through its SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, the group engages with the community to eliminate substance abuse among youth and adults. TAC LI, on the other hand, focuses solely on tobacco awareness and education teens and young adults on the dangers of smoking and vaping. In a news release, SAFE's Executive Director Sharon Harris explained that after she and TAC LI Manager Carol Meschkow met with

Police Chief William Whitton and Deputy Chief Chris Ortiz, the police department was more than eager to join the smoke-free initiative.

"As first responders and mentors for the local youth they realized how significant an impact they would be making in helping to change the social norms associated with the acceptability of smoking," Harris wrote. "In true fashion as prominent leaders in the Community they have once again stepped up on behalf of the welfare of the City of Glen Cove."

The Glen Cove Police Department has previously worked with SAFE to deliver 9 substance abuse prevention education workshop and monitored underage drinking sales in 2018. Along with the police department, the Glen Cove Emergency Medical Services and Housing Authority departments, as well as city hall, the senior center and the North Shore Historical Museum, have all joined SAFE and TAC LI's smoke-free initiative.