

BLUE FOLDER ITEM

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YOUTH COMMISSION JUNE 5, 2025

J.2. COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Moratorium on Smoke Shops

Background

On May 6, 2025, the Redondo Beach City Council took significant steps to address public health concerns by approving an urgency ordinance that imposes a moratorium on new smoke shops. The urgency ordinance, which is effective immediately, will initially last for 45 days. The council plans to extend it for an additional 10 months and 15 days. This temporary measure is intended to prevent the opening of new smoke shops while the city develops a permanent ordinance. The decision was driven by concerns about increased tobacco product sales and their impact on youth.

A draft of a permanent ordinance has been presented to the council. The proposed regulations include:

- limiting the total number of smoke shops to 10 citywide, with a maximum of two per council district.
- Requiring a 1,000-foot buffer zone between stores, and a 600-foot buffer from schools.
 - This is important as there are currently 11 tobacco retailers within 1,000 feet of schools in Redondo Beach.
- New smoke shops would need a Conditional Use Permit (CUP), and existing ones would be required to obtain one within five years.
- Allow for unannounced inspections and give the City the authority to revoke permits or licenses.

The draft permanent ordinance is expected to be reviewed by the city's planning commission in June.

Local Information

Currently, there are at least 15 smoke shops operating in Redondo Beach. Recent inspections by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, supported by the Redondo Beach Police Department, have led to actions including notices and a closure due to the discovery of illegal tobacco and marijuana products. Currently, there are 53 tobacco retail licenses in Redondo Beach and most are located on Artesia Blvd, compared to Hermosa Beach (13 tobacco retail licenses) and Manhattan Beach, where the sale of tobacco is banned entirely. Please go to <https://cthat.org> for the source of this information and to learn more about tobacco retail licenses with the California Tobacco Health Assessment Tool.

The moratorium provides the City with time to establish a more comprehensive regulatory framework for smoke shops. This is an important first step in protecting youth in Redondo Beach from substance use. However, this draft ordinance can amend the tobacco retail license to mirror our neighboring Beach Cities, including Hermosa Beach, where the municipal code includes tobacco-free pharmacies and minimum cigar pack size, which would improve the City's American Lung Association Tobacco Grade from a B to an A.

Please consider supporting the moratorium on smoke shops moving forward as this item will be discussed during the Redondo Beach City Council meeting on June 10, 2025. The Youth Commission represents the voice of Redondo Beach young residents and we encourage all to have this voice heard and represented to ensure a foundation is laid for a healthy beach community, and youth and young people can thrive.

Proposed Statement

If supported by the Commission, the subcommittee recommends the Commission consider the following statement being shared with the City Council on behalf of the Commission:

"We, the Redondo Beach Youth Commission, support the continuation of a moratorium on smoke shops in Redondo Beach as tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of disease and death in the United States. We recognize that there are numerous tobacco retailers in our community and that many are selling products that target youth and young people with flavored tobacco and illegal products that can lead to substance abuse and addiction. We reflect the future of a healthy beach community and deserve the opportunity to thrive without the proliferation of tobacco retailers. The density of tobacco retailers on Artesia Blvd is a concern as it connects many of our schools, neighborhoods, parks, playgrounds, the teen center, and more, as shown by the California Tobacco Health Assessment Tool. We advise the City Council to continue the moratorium on smoke shops and support the ordinance language requiring a 1,000-foot buffer zone between tobacco retailers and a 600-foot buffer from tobacco retailers and youth-oriented places. Additional steps can be taken to mirror our neighboring Beach Cities, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach, enacting language that addresses tobacco-free pharmacies and minimum cigar pack size as an evidence-based step to protect youth from substance abuse. Thank you for your consideration."

If approved, staff would share this with the City Council prior to its June 10 meeting.