



Posted on Sat, Jun. 30, 2007

Surfside Beach will consider smoking ban

Student first to propose idea as part of class assignment

By Jonathan Tressler

The Sun News

Surfside Beach leaders are being asked to consider a smoking ban for the town.

Town officials are set to vote on a proposed ban at their July 9 Town Council meeting, Councilwoman Judy Tuttle said Friday.

Tuttle, who introduced the idea for a ban on smoking in public buildings during a council meeting in April, said a young lady from the town, while a senior at Francis Marion University, contacted her about the idea as part of a class assignment.

"She actually was proposing that the town of Surfside enact a smoking ban, so I did some research," Tuttle said.

She said she learned the town of Sullivan's Island in Charleston County was the first municipality in South Carolina to enact such a ban and there are similar ordinances currently being proposed in other municipalities throughout the state.

New life was breathed into the proposed Surfside Beach ordinance at Tuesday's council meeting, when a resident brought it up during the public discussion, Tuttle said.

Residents' reception to the proposal has been positive, she said.

"So far, the community seems very favorable to it. They've been positive," she said.

The ban would not only address clean air issues, but it would go a long way toward keeping beaches and other public places free from unsightly discarded cigarette butts, Tuttle said.

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