

5-11-06

**Mayor Mike Tucker and Council Members  
City of Hermosa Beach  
1315 Valley Drive  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254**

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MAY 15 2006

Per.....

**To the City Council**

**Referring to the ongoing debate over the beach smoking ban,  
please consider the ban one of the best moves you will make.  
It is a health issue as well as a trash issue.**

**Enclosed are two articles recently printed in the Daily Breeze.  
They cover both.**

**Neither Hermosa nor Redondo would wish to be known as the  
unhealthiest and butt filled beaches of the South Bay.**

**Sincerely**

  
**Paul E. Reams**

**506 No. Paulina Ave.  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277-3020**

## Daily Breeze

**WEDNESDAY**

April 19, 2006

## Daily Breeze

**FRIDAY**

April 28, 2006

## Your views

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### Take it easy on smokers already

I read Karen Carr's letter ("Make Torrance beach smoke-free," April 14) advocating legislation to keep smokers off Torrance beach. Does she then intend to support banning Jews, blacks, and gays? Maybe women should be kept in their place, too.

I am, of course, being sardonic, but I think my point is clear. The current anti-smoker hysteria has gone way beyond any reasonable or rational concern for health or the quality of public sanitation. It's bigotry, plain and simple. And it's a particularly insidious bigotry, since it is societally legitimized, in large part due to a "wealth" of misinformation provided as part of a highly deceptive advertising campaign by the so-called California Department of Health Services.

Does anyone seriously think that the occasional, incidental breathing of someone else's cigarette smoke poses a health hazard? Sounds like they need to get a hobby. Does cancer immediately spring to mind when they get a whiff of their neighbor's barbecue or smoke from a chimney down the street? Why not? It's the same thing. Smoke is smoke.

I suppose in a sense I'm envious. I wish all that I had to worry about was someone who I don't know lighting a cigarette thirty feet down the beach from me. It seems

that if that is a person's biggest problem, maybe they should put their time, energy and God-given talents to a more constructive use than carrying on a hate campaign against smokers.

When I was raised, I was taught that mature, responsible adults tolerate each other's differences and make an effort to responsibly get along, not go about trying to stamp out everything that doesn't appeal to their sensibilities. I don't particularly like the smell of tea or the sound of country-western music, but I'm not trying to get them outlawed.

So lighten up on those who light up. They're not subversives or criminals. They just have different preferences than you do.

— JOHN LANSING  
San Pedro

In response to John Lansing's letter, there isn't adequate space for a full reply. His remarks are typical of many smokers' attitudes. They don't want the truth.

He calls it "misinformation" when the California Department of Health Services refers to the damage done by tobacco. Lung cancer, emphysema, heart disease and stroke are proven consequences from studies by doctors and scientists. Speaking of misinformation, where was he when some top executives lied to congress, saying that nicotine was not addictive?

Most of the health consequences of tobacco have been directed to the users themselves. More recent research has proven that secondhand smoke is unhealthy, and many of those affected are children who have no idea what is happening. Even toddlers have been known to put

discarded cigarette butts into their mouths.

As to his objection to smoking on the beach, I hope it is banned nationally. Better still, it would benefit the health of millions if the courageous step taken by the city of Calabasas to ban smoking in all public places would expand across the nation. Bet John Lansing would have gone ballistic if he lived in Calabasas.

There are other consequences of smoking: the increased cost of health insurance and services, which is passed on to all.

If you smoke, quit. If you don't smoke, don't start. Think of your health first, and then your pocketbook.

— PAUL E. REAMS  
Redondo Beach

