

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not so smoke free

Dear editor,

It's been a little over two weeks since the NYC Smoke Free Park and Beaches took effect. How are New Yorkers doing? The other day my friends and I were sitting on a park bench enjoying the lovely breeze, soaking up the sunshine and having a wonderful conversation until some employees from a nearby school walked over to smoke. My first thought was wow I guess the smoke-free park and beaches does not apply to them, and they believe they are exempt from the law.

The chatter has been you are outside and the smoke dissipates into the air, and you are really not inhaling that much second hand smoke. Not true if you smell it you are breathing in the particles! The wind blew the smoke right into our direction, we might as well have been smoking ourselves.

We tried gesturing and waving the smoke away hoping that they would get the hint to walk away, put the cigarette out or better yet remember the new law?

Nothing, as they kept on smoking. This was a complete disregard for their neighbors and the law.

We had three choices, to move, continue inhaling the second hand smoke, or kindly remind them of the law. We chose the latter.

This is just a reminder to all if we say nothing, do nothing then nothing changes. It is everyone's right to enjoy having smoke-free parks and beaches.

As always smokers can get the help to quit smoking by calling the Smokers' Quitline at 1-866-697-8487.

Cynthia Blount
Administrative Assistant
Bronx BREATHEs
Albert Einstein College of Medicine