

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

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Portsmouth Addresses Downtown Cigarette Litter

PORTSMOUTH, NH – After placing cigarette receptacles around the Hanover Parking Garage and seeing a noticeable decrease in litter, the Department of Public Works will be adding cigarette receptacles throughout the downtown area to further aid this issue.

Improper disposal of cigarettes has long been a concern of the City. Not only does cigarette litter make City streets unappealing, it can make its way from gutters into the water system – rivers, soil and the sea. Increasing the amount of receptacles is not aimed to encourage smoking, but to simply ensure proper disposal and raise awareness on littering.

“Cigarettes are some of the most common pieces of litter,” said Jacob Levenson, Solid Waste Sustainability Coordinator for the City. “Especially as we are entering the summer season and seeing an increase of visitors to the City, it was important to offer better ways to dispose of cigarettes. We have been pleased to see how quickly this litter has been reduced at the Garage, and are happy to see other local businesses, such as Poco’s on Bow Street, adding more receptacles to help this effort as well.”

In addition to new receptacles, the City will continue to increase education and branding efforts concerning littering year-round. Properly identifying cigarette receptacles to smokers with clear signage is part of a larger strategy to educate the public through friendlier signs for all waste streams. The City also encourages local businesses with outdoor smoking areas to provide proper collection of cigarettes.

“Our City streets and overall environment will be significantly improved with more public receptacles,” said City Manager John Bohenko. “I am very pleased to see our solid waste program continue to broaden its efforts and appreciate the participation of the community in helping keep our City clean.”

For more information, please:

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