



News

NEWSHOME | THE SNITCH | CHEM TALES | ARCHIVESEARCH




TOP



New Jail Could Be Approved Days Before It's Rendered
By Julia



Trans Suicide Hotline Founder Heeds the Call
By



How to Buy a Cannabis Dispensary
By

NEWS » SUCKA FREE CITY

Like 45

Tweet

G+ 0

Search

Thrown Out at Home Plate: S.F. Approves Ban on Chewing Tobacco at Baseball Park

By Amy Alexander
Wednesday, Apr 29 2015

Comments (2)

Last autumn, while we were celebrating the San Francisco Giants' impressive win in the World Series, health activists were taking a swing at one of the baseball's most storied — if also gross — traditions: smokeless tobacco.

In a final vote Tuesday, San Francisco supervisors approved a measure by District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell to ban the use of smokeless tobacco from all ballparks within city and county limits, including at AT&T park. The ordinance requires the signature of Mayor Ed Lee before going into effect Jan. 1.



Farrell's measure didn't come out of left field. It is the culmination of a years-long campaign by state and health activists who argue that "chew," "snuff," and "dip" — nicknames for the condensed wads of potent tobacco baseball players have been wedging between their cheeks and gums for a century — is a bad habit that needs to die.

Matt Myers, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, was thrilled by Farrell's proposal.

"San Francisco's board of supervisors recognizes some simple but important facts — kids see athletes as role models, and when baseball stars use smokeless tobacco the kids who look up to them are much more likely to as well," Myers said. "Our national pastime should have nothing to do with promoting a deadly and addictive product."

Polls from SFWEEKLY

Do body-worn cameras on police officers make you feel safer?

READ MORE

3.2K

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

POPULAR STORIES

Most Popular Stories

Stories You Missed



New Jail Could Be Approved Days Before It's Rendered Unnecessary

The Excelsior's Gambling (and Nightclub) Problem

In addition, in February, Tony Thurmond, Democratic assemblyman from District 15 (Richmond), introduced a measure to prohibit the use of chewing tobacco at major league venues across the state. Thurmond's Tobacco-Free Baseball Act, Assembly Bill 768, is currently in petition stage, and gathering signatures before it will come up for a vote before the full Legislature.

An Assembly member since 2005, Thurmond is optimistic AB 768 will pass: The measure is necessary as a public health matter, he says. Thurmond says it is crucial to advocate for children and youth who look up to professional athletes — whether at AT&T Park in San Francisco or across the bay at the Oakland Coliseum.

"The use of smokeless tobacco in baseball, at any level and in any location, sets a terrible example for the millions of young people who watch the game and far too often see their favorite players using snuff, dip or chew," Thurmond said. "We have a great opportunity to protect our players and stand up for kids by getting tobacco out of the game."

I spent many blissful afternoons at Candlestick Park during the 1970s watching Bobby Bonds, Gary Mattingly, Chris Speier, Willie McCovey, and other Giants greats.

The teams of that era didn't often win the division pennant, but they kept most games interesting. Still, as much as I loved watching the Giants play and experiencing the carnivalesque sound of the organ, the smell of beer, and the salty crunch of the popcorn, I never enjoyed seeing the distended cheeks and mud-colored arcs of tobacco juice emanating from my favorite players' mouths.

Here's hoping the next generation of Giants and A's fans won't have to reconcile those icky images with the players' on-field acts of heroism.

Tags: Sucka Free City

About The Author



Amy Alexander

Email

Print

Write to Editor

submit

We Recommend



New Jail Could Be Approved Days Before It's Rendered Unnecessary



The Excelsior's Gambling (and Nightclub) Problem



SF Considers Legal Parking Lots for Homeless RV Dwellers



When Noise Machines Don't Work



SF Considers Legal Parking Lots for Homeless RV Dwellers

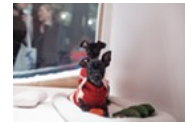


When Noise Machines Don't Work



Dungeness Downer: A Delayed Season is Making Fishermen Crabby

SLIDESHOWS



SF SPCA Holiday Windows at Macy's



John 5 and Doyle @ DNA Lounge

[More Slideshows »](#)

THE SNITCH



Man Shot by SFPD ID'd as Mario Woods, Was on Gang Injunction



Yesterday's Crimes: The Tragic Schoolyard Shooting Linked to Jonestown



SF Cops Complain that the City's Body Camera Policy Treats Them Like Criminals

[More »](#)

COMMENTS (2)

Sort [Newest to Oldest](#)

Showing 1-2 of 2

[add a comment](#)



Simply ? S'ci F'i " Wagging the dog ", again.. Trying to push it's perceived S. F. values on the rest of the planet , while Rome burns , here at home . Carpetbaggers.... Got'ta love 'em.. Yet they're untouchable , often , in some cases running unopposed for reelection .

[report](#)

[like](#) [dislike](#)