

## Popular Hillsboro Village sports bar goes smoke free

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By Stephanie Langston, Reporter - bio | email



NASHVILLE, Tenn. - After several years of holding out [Sam's Sports Bar](#) located in Hillsboro Village is going smoke-free.

Sam Sanchez is one of the owners of the bar.

He told Nashville's News 2 that the new smoke free policy is something that he has considered for a few years, but decided to enforce the change after conducting a series of polls and surveys.

"I always said we would never [go smoke free], you know pigs fly and we would never switch," Sanchez said.

In 2007, Tennessee's Non-smoking Protection Act went into effect, preventing public businesses from allowing smoking inside unless they are 21 and over establishments.

Four years later, the state still has a 30% smoking rate, more than 10% above the national average.

Johnny Foodstamp is one of the bar's weekly regulars. He said he does not have a problem stepping out into the fresh air to satisfy his habit.

"It doesn't bother me at all to go outside and smoke," he said.

Others Nashville's News 2 spoke to said they plan to take their business elsewhere due to the new policy.

Sanchez said he believes the bar could lose some clientele, but will gain others.

On Tuesday cleaning crews spent time scrubbing the walls and floors to clear out the lingering smoke smell.

From Wednesday forward the bar will be all ages up until 9 p.m.

In recognition of going smoke free, on Leap Day 10% of all proceeds from the sports bar will go to the [American Cancer Society](#).

Sam's Sports Grill also operates locations in Hendersonville and Murfreesboro, both are already smoke free.



Sam Sanchez said he has considered going smoke free for a few years.



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