

Advocates premiere documentary to promote smoke free casinos

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ATLANTIC CITY -- The Atlantic Prevention Resources, an advocacy group against smoking in casinos premiered a short documentary at Revel casino tonight to address the issue of the potential harms of second hand smoke in Atlantic City casinos.

"I'm afraid that we will continue see people dying at a younger age," said executive director of Atlantic Prevention Resources Robert Zlotnick.

Advocates against second hand smoke, gathered Wednesday night as the Atlantic Prevention Resources premiered a documentary that showed the dangers that casino employees and patrons face when it comes to breathing in second hand smoke.

"Anytime you are in an environment where you are exposed to second hand smoke you're at risk for a number of health issues so as far as casino workers being exposed to second hand smoke throughout their entire shift it is an obvious health concern," said New Jersey Director of American Cancer Society Ethan Hasbrouck.

"I've been fighting second hand smoke since they took it away from everybody except the casino dealers. People on the casino floor have to live with it and nobody else in New Jersey does," said casino dealer Liz String.

The short documentary took more than three years to create and it featured not only advocates against casino smoking but the people who are impacted the most; casino workers who say they are afraid for their health.

"It's very dangerous but you don't know it until it's too late," said String

Currently Revel is the only casino in Atlantic City that offers a 100% smoke free environment and advocates against second hand smoke are hoping others will follow in their footsteps.

"Well Revel is a hero, Revel really has taken a huge step forward in Atlantic City, this market in the entire northeast region," Zlotnick said.

"I think they are setting the best example and god-bless them," said String. "I'm glad to see corporate come across and show that they care."

And although choice still lies within the hands of the casinos, advocates against casino smoking say they will continue to fight against this preventable issue.

"The number one cause of preventable disease and death on this planet is second hand smoke and so it's very important to protect all the workers as well the public from this class a carcinogen at the casinos," said executive director of Global Advisors Smokefree Policy, Karen Blumenfeld.

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