

Nude Sunbathing Comes to Brighton Beach

By Craig McGuire

If you're in search of the ultimate full-body tan this summer, Brighton Beach is the place for you.

Area lawmakers have finally pushed through legislation designating a section

of Brighton Beach a "clothing optional zone" -- more commonly known as a nude beach.

Both residents and visitors to the neighborhood will be allowed to sunbathe nude on Brighton Beach,

between Brighton 1st Street and Coney Island Avenue.

"This is city government operating at its finest," said freshman City Councilman Howard Lasher. "There was a strong demand in the community, and residents were able to work with their representatives to bring it to fruition."

The bill was first introduced in 1975 by former Councilman Sam Horwitz, Lasher's predecessor, and ignited controversy over the issue of indecency. But with the '90s being hailed as the decade of free expression, nude sunbathing is no longer a big deal, noted Horwitz.

"Even back in '75," said Horwitz, "I felt the urgency to prevent the oppression of an inalienable right that was enforced on a signifi-

on's large senior community, was launched.

"When the news came over the air that the bill had passed, there were cries of

started. They said we were dreamers, they said it couldn't be done, but we never faltered."

"Many people do not understand the magnitude of this issue," said recently elected State Assemblyman Jules Polonetsky. "It's not just about a nude beach, it gets to the very heart of our constitutional rights."

Pat Zinger, president of the Brighton Neighborhood Association, said, "We are glad to see that the city is finally allowing nude sunbathing." Zinger said the BNA would hand out free sunblock samples this summer.

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cant portion of my constituency. Yet I had no idea how great the demand was."

Almost immediately a grass-roots movement, mobilizing members Bright-

joy throughout the center," said Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center spokesman Takit Oloff. "Many of the people here today were back there in 1975 when we

City Implements Old 'Porch' Tax Clause

By Lauchlin Mac Neil

Brooklyn residents are getting a surprise envelope in the mail and it's not a sweepstakes notice from Ed McMahon. It's an addition to their real estate bill.

"At first I thought the \$1,850.34 was a credit on my city taxes," recalled Midwood homeowner Al Milott. "But boy, was I mistaken when I found out it was a bill."

Milott and a growing number of other Brooklyn

homeowners have been taken aback to learn of a little-used, but long-standing tax assessment clause, the New York City Porch Tax, contained in Assessment Values of Real Property within the City of New York.

New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi said the Porch Tax has been on the books since the 1940s, but had been forgotten over the years by city regulators. "I rediscovered it while

searching for ways to make up the city's \$2.6 billion budget deficit," Hevesi explained.

will be your own fault. We all must do our fair share."

However, Flatbush Councilwoman Una Clarke

"If you can prove that you sit on your porch less than five times a year," said Councilwoman Una Clarke, "you won't have to pay anything."

The tax, which averages \$1,500 per porch, will hit neighborhoods like Midwood and Flatbush especially hard because of the

said residents who don't use their porches could apply for an exemption from the tax. "If you can prove that you sit on your porch



This nude bather prepares to enter the cooling waters at Brighton's new nude beach.

Bergen Beach Makes Way for Fishport

By Alex Maurice

wait for the smell of fresh

live with the minor nu-

said. "Brooklyn has to pro-