



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2017

Contact: Tracy Dunne
925.931.5044 or 925.519.5836 c
tdunne@cityofpleasantonca.gov

COUNCIL INTRODUCES NEW SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

Ordinance Would Limit Smoking in Multifamily Rental Apartments

PLEASANTON, Calif. — The Pleasanton City Council voted last night to introduce expanded restrictions on smoking in Pleasanton. Specifically, the ordinance would prohibit smoking inside of multifamily rental apartments, as well as on balconies, patios and in common indoor and outdoor areas at such apartments.

In 2015, based upon public health concerns and recommendations brought forward by the Youth Commission, the Council voted to ban smoking in public parks and trails within City limits. In addition, existing restrictions also include banning smoking for events held in the downtown area; regulating smoking in public and work places, and allowing property owners to prohibit smoking in outdoor dining areas.

By expanding the scope of smoking restrictions to include smoking restrictions in multifamily rental apartments based on concerns over secondhand smoke exposure, the Council is among a growing list of local governments seeking to improve overall public health by restricting smoking in both public and private places. In an effort to provide some accommodation for smokers, the ordinance,

as introduced, allows for apartment owners to establish an outdoor smoking area at least 25 feet away from non-smoking areas.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that each year secondhand smoke causes close to 7,500 deaths from lung cancer and more than 33,000 deaths from heart disease. As of April 2017, there are approximately 90 cities and counties in California with smoke-free housing policies.

As currently written, the smoking restrictions also include e-cigarettes and marijuana. To enforce these new restrictions, landlords will be required to take reasonable steps to inform residents and guests of the smoking prohibition, including the posting of signs. If compliance remains an issue, City staff may issue administrative citations, including fines of \$100 for a first violation, \$200 for a second violation within one year, and \$500 for a third violation within one year.

After last night's unanimous vote, the ordinance must be formally adopted at a subsequent Council meeting and any new smoking restrictions will generally take effect six months later, likely sometime in spring 2018.

Follow us on Twitter @pleasantonca and Facebook www.facebook.com/CityofPleasanton

###