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City Council Votes for Smoke-Free, Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance

Smoking to be prohibited in multi-unit dwellings starting Jan. 1, 2018

Beverly Hills, CA - The Beverly Hills City Council has passed, on a first reading, an ordinance that would prohibit smoking in multi-unit properties such as apartments, duplexes and condominiums. The ordinance is scheduled for a final vote and adoption at the Oct. 3, 2017, City Council Formal Meeting.

“This is a huge step forward for Beverly Hills,” said Mayor Lili Bosse. “Smoking is the single biggest contributor to respiratory illness and we must do everything we can to reduce smoking and second-hand smoke in our community.”

If given final approval, smoking will be prohibited in all newly leased multi-unit dwellings and associated exclusive use areas such as balconies, patios and decks effective Jan. 1, 2018. Common indoor and outdoor areas such as hallways, pathways, lobbies, community rooms and laundry facilities will also fall under these regulations on this date. Effective Jan. 1, 2019, smoking would be prohibited in all multi-unit dwellings, inclusive of all rental units and owner-occupied units.

The City’s definition of smoking includes both traditional tobacco smoke as well as electronic cigarettes. Additionally, California Health and Safety Code prohibits the smoking of cannabis or cannabis products in a location where smoking tobacco is prohibited. These proposed regulations would also apply to marijuana smoke.

In addition, the City Council emphasized the importance of smoking cessation programs and asked the Health and Safety Commission to discuss options for helping residents who wish to quit.

The regulations have been developed over the past year at numerous Health and Safety Commission meetings where public comment was heard on the topic.

In order to promote healthy living, over the past several years, the City has enacted several no-smoking policies. In 2014, the City updated the Municipal Code to include “vaping” in its definition of “smoking.” More recently, in May of 2017, the City prohibited smoking in the public right of way, unless actively travelling.

According to a 2010 report from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, approximately 8% of the Beverly Hills adult population smokes, which is lower than the Los Angeles County average smoking prevalence rate of 14%. For more information on the development of the ordinance and other City smoking regulations, visit beverlyhills.org/smoking or call (310) 285-1014.

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