

# Smoke-Free Solutions for San Diego Apartment Renters

*Non-Smoking Housing Task Force*

*Presentation to*

*San Diego Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee*

*February 15, 2012*

# Today's Presenters

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# Why we are here today

- \* To inform City Council Members about the serious health impact of secondhand and third-hand smoke on residents in apartment complexes
- \* To update City Council Members on the efforts of the Non-Smoking Housing Task Force
- \* To provide City Council Members with possible solutions

# Progress in Multi-Unit Housing Issue

## \* May 2009

- \* Made presentation to PS&NS Committee
- \* Councilmember Emerald directed housing industry personnel and prevention groups to form the Non-Smoking Housing Task Force and explore a solution together.

## \* January 2010

- \* Task Force submitted draft language for a proposed non-smoking ordinance to the office of Councilmember Emerald.

## \* October 24, 2011

- \* City Attorney's office submitted a Memorandum in response.

## \* February 1, 2012

- \* Task Force voted to approve the draft Secondhand Smoke as Nuisance in Multi-Housing Communities Ordinance. The San Diego County Apartment Association and the California Apartment Association, expressed opposition to the proposed draft language where landlords are the enforcers.

# Smoke-free housing policies have been adopted in fifty-five California communities

Alameda, Albany, Baldwin Park, Belmont, Burbank, Calabasas, Carpinteria, Compton, Contra Costa County, Dublin, Emeryville, Eureka, Fairfax, Glendale, Kern County, Laguna Woods, Larkspur, Loma Linda, Madera, Martinez, Menlo Park, Novato, Oakland, Oxnard, Pasadena, Paso Robles, Pinole, Pleasant Hill, Pleasanton, Plumas County, Port Hueneme, Rancho Cordova, Rancho Mirage, Richmond, Rohnert Park, Sacramento (City), Sacramento County, San Bernardino County, San Diego County, San Joaquin County, San Leandro, San Luis Obispo (City), Santa Barbara (City), Santa Barbara County, Santa Clara County, Santa Monica, Sebastopol, Sonoma County, South Pasadena, Temecula, Thousand Oaks, Tiburon, Union City, Winters and Woodland.

# Health Risks of Secondhand Smoke

- \* More people die from smoking than from AIDS, drug abuse, car accidents and murder combine
- \* There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Breathing even a little secondhand smoke can be harmful to your health (Surgeon General 2006)
- \* 80.8% of the general California population have total home ban
- \* In 2008,
  - \* 11.6% of Californians smoked
  - \* 59.3% of current smokers in California have total home ban
  - \* 68% of current smokers in San Diego have total home bans
  - \*  $0.32 \times 11.6 = 3.7\%$  prevalence of the general population affected by a total ban in homes

vs.

96.3%

# Third-hand smoke

- \* Pollutants reemitted into the gas phase or react with oxidants or other compounds present in the environment to form secondary contaminants, some of which are carcinogenic or otherwise toxic for human health
- \* Nicotine levels were significantly higher in dust, air, and surface of apartments of former smokers after homes remain vacant for 2 months and are cleaned and prepared for new residents. (Matt et al 2011)

# San Diego Public Opinion–Telephone Survey Results

- \* Secondhand smoke seeps through shared ventilation ducts and open windows and doors, exposing neighbors for hours on end
- \* Depending on their age, people spend 60%-85% of their day at home
- \* An estimated 589,000 people live in these apartments (2010 Census)
- \* 90% agreed that people that don't smoke have the right to live in smoke-free housing (SDSU Survey)
- \* Almost 90% of tenants believed that exposure to secondhand smoke was harmful (63% thought it was “very harmful”)

# Benefits of smoking bans

- \* Home bans predicted quitting and decrease in consumption among smokers (Messer et al 2008)
- \* Smoking bans and perception about secondhand smoke harm predicts less initiation of smoking among adolescents (Song et al 2009)
- \* There is a significant drop in the rate of acute myocardial infarction hospital admissions associated with the implementation of strong smoke-free legislation (Lightwood & Glantz 2009)

# Benefits from the Perspective of a Task Force Member

- \* Vast majority want this sort of protection
- \* Health affected tenants feel helpless
- \* The current state of the law creates a difficult burden on tenants for enforcement or assistance
- \* How important it is that we take a leadership role and set an example with this law before one that is more burdensome comes along
- \* How landlords may benefit from such a law – my perspective being a landlord as well as a tenant advocate

# The Need for Action

- \* History repeats itself: 1994 passing of smoking bans in restaurants and bars.
- \* Hospitality Associations were against it: revenue decline, enforcement burden, freedom of choice, nonsmoking workers can leave and find another job
- \* There is a moral responsibility to protect the health and welfare of nonsmokers by simply asking smokers to smoke away from them

# Requested Action Today

- \* Direct the City Attorney's office to provide a legal opinion within 90 days on the submitted draft language addressing secondhand smoke as a nuisance in multi-family properties and to review other municipal ordinances which ban smoking in multi-family properties.

# Thank you

- \* The Non-Smoking Housing Task Force thanks Councilmember Emerald and Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee members for their vision in forming the Task Force and for efforts in exploring policy solutions that support the health and well-being of San Diego Apartment Renters.

# Contact Information

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