

City Council Updates Foster City Smoking Ordinance



In November 2014, after more than a year of study and discussion, the City Council of Foster City completed a thorough update of the City's smoking ordinance. The project, which was undertaken in three phases, greatly reduces the number of places that smoking is allowed within the City limits.

Changes in the law impact residential, commercial and public spaces in various ways.

The purpose of the smoking ordinance is to protect the public health and welfare by regulating smoking under circumstances where other persons will be exposed to secondhand smoke.

A summary of the changes to the ordinance is on the back of this flyer. A link to the current ordinance and other resources on this topic are available at www.fostercity.org.

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Summary of changes to the Smoking Ordinance from previous law:

- Includes electronic cigarettes in the definition of smoking so that any laws that pertain to smoking also include electronic cigarettes (effective 9/3/2014)
- Prohibits smoking within 30 feet of all entrances / doorways of apartment buildings, condominiums and townhomes and 50 feet of commercial and retail spaces except that smoking is allowed in up to 50% of outdoor seating of restaurants, even if located within 50 feet of the entrance (effective 9/3/2014)
- Prohibits smoking at all community-wide special events, including the Arts and Wine Festival, Fourth of July Celebration and Summer Concerts (effective 9/3/2014)
- Prohibits smoking in all areas that are on or adjacent to public property, including all City facilities and parks, sidewalks, pathways, pedways and parking lots (effective 9/3/2014)
- Prohibits smoking in City streets except within vehicles traveling on City streets (effective 9/3/2014)
- Prohibits smoking on all sidewalks in or adjacent to common interest developments, apartments, shopping centers and commercial properties with retail establishments (Smoking is allowed on sidewalks adjacent to single family homes on private streets.) (effective 9/3/2014)
- Prohibits smoking in all apartment units, including on balconies and patios, for which new leases are executed subsequent to the effective date of this ordinance (effective 11/5/2014)
- For apartment units with existing leases, prohibits smoking beginning in November 2015 (effective 11/5/2014)
- Prohibits smoking in all indoor and outdoor common areas of apartment units except in specifically designated areas (effective 11/5/2014)
- Prohibits smoking in condominiums and townhomes with shared common walls, ventilation, floors or ceilings, their balconies and patios. (effective 12/17/2014)

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