

*October 18, 2021*

Dear Mayor Sandoval and Councilmembers,

On behalf of *The Community Life Commission*, I wish to express our enthusiastic support for a comprehensive smoke-free multi-unit housing ordinances as a measure that protects children, families, residents, and visitors from secondhand smoke and aerosol exposure where people live. We encourage the Pomona City Council to help create smoke-free multi-unit housing to protect residents, reduce tobacco litter in and around housing, and set a healthy, smoke/vape-free example for our youth.

As you know, the dangers of secondhand smoke are well documented, and the U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure. Secondhand smoke exposure is especially harmful for children, senior citizens, and adults with asthma or other chronic illnesses. In addition, studies are now showing that aerosol emitted from electronic smoking devices (ESD's) or vapes is made up of a high concentration of ultrafine particles, and the particle concentration is higher than in conventional tobacco cigarette smoke. Exposure to these fine and ultrafine particles may exacerbate respiratory ailments like asthma and constrict arteries which could trigger a heart attack.

Furthermore, the dangers of drifting secondhand smoke in multi-unit dwellings can be especially harmful since Tobacco smoke and ESD aerosol can travel from one neighbor's home to another. Studies show that secondhand smoke can drift into and out of open windows and doors. It even has the potential to travel through shared air vents and ducts, cracks in walls, gaps around electrical wiring, lights and plumbing, and through floorboards. Non-smokers, and even smokers that do not smoke in their homes can be exposed to drifting secondhand smoke and ESD aerosol from neighboring apartments or condominiums.

To protect the health of those living in multi-unit housing, local cities and counties throughout California have taken steps to pass ordinances that restrict smoking in multi-unit housing. These policies vary in provisions to include units and common areas of apartments and condominiums. In fact, many cities have passed comprehensive ordinances that prohibit smoking on 100% of the property.

Recent surveys conducted among Pomona residents found that there is strong public support for smoke-free multi-unit housing policies. Results show that 97% of all residents surveyed were in support of a law that bans smoking in at least one of the following areas: indoor common areas such as hallways and laundry rooms (92%), indoor private spaces such as living rooms and bedrooms (84%),

outdoor private areas such as balconies and patios (64%), and outdoor common areas such as courtyards and pools (82%). Additionally, 48% of residents living in multi-unit housing reported secondhand smoke drifted into their unit in the past year. Lastly, if given the option, 90% of Pomona residents living in multi-unit housing would choose to live in a completely non-smoking building.

Sixty-three (63) cities and counties in California have adopted strong comprehensive ordinances that prohibit smoking in multi-unit housing, including 17 jurisdictions in LA County. Comprehensive ordinances include smoke free common areas, indoor private spaces, outdoor common areas, and outdoor private spaces. Some local jurisdictions that have adopted comprehensive policies include Baldwin Park, Compton, El Monte, Glendale, Huntington Park, Pasadena, and South Pasadena.

It is crucial, as a preventative measure, that the Pomona community come together to protect the health and well-being of our residents. Tobacco control policies that prevent exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing are urgently needed.

As the Community Life Commission, we are tasked to address issues that improve the quality of life in our community and believe it is time to consider the good, long-term health of residents and community members in the City of Pomona. We are also convinced we can work together to safeguard future generations from exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing throughout the community.

Sincerely yours,

Christina Jimenez

*Chair of The Community Life Commission  
City of Pomona*