



City of Martinez

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553-2394

May 28, 2015

Dear Multi-unit Tenant,

The Martinez City Council adopted Secondhand Smoke Ordinance No. 1352 on May 6, 2009. This ordinance went into effect June 6, 2009, and amended Chapter 8.05 of the Martinez Municipal Code to implement a number of additional protections to the non-smoking public. As a result, secondhand smoke is regulated in and around "public places," such as businesses, bars, restaurants, and parks.

The ordinance also affects multi-unit residences of 4 or more units starting June 1, 2010. Smoking will no longer be allowed in common areas such as lobbies, laundry rooms, outdoor eating areas, swimming pools and parking lots of these residences. Additionally, smoking will no longer be allowed in private outdoor spaces associated with units, such as balconies, patios, decks, entry porches and carports. Your lease should already be amended in accordance with the Ordinance to reflect the smoking law. Please note smoking inside units is not governed by the regulations. Designating units as smoking or non-smoking remains at the discretion of the landlords. Any breach of the regulations is primarily enforceable by the landlords, but tenants may take civil action if necessary, so please respect non-smoking members of your multi-unit community and if you smoke, only do so in those areas authorized by the regulation and allowed by your landlord/property manager.

Secondhand smoke is responsible for an estimated 38,000 deaths among non-smokers each year in the United States, which includes 3,000 lung cancer deaths and 35,000 deaths due to heart disease. The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a group A carcinogen, the most dangerous class. If you are a smoker, I encourage you to take advantage of numerous smoking cessation resources available, including the Contra Costa Health Service's Tobacco Prevention Program at www.cchealth.org/topics/tobacco/; the California Department of Public Health's website www.TobaccoFreeCA.com; and the American Lung Association www.californialung.org.

Regards,

Rob Braulik, City Manager
City of Martinez