

RRHA TO IMPLEMENT SMOKE-FREE POLICY FOR ALL RRHA PROPERTIES

The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority will implement a smoke-free policy at all of its properties, pursuant to new regulations from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (24 C.F.R. § 965.653). The policy will take full effect on **July 30, 2018**.

The smoke-free policy will still allow people who smoke to rent a unit. However, the policy will prohibit smoking on RRHA property. The policy covers all indoor areas, including individual units, common areas, and administrative office buildings, and as well as all outdoor areas **within 25 feet** of any building, door, or window. The policy affects **all** RRHA public housing units, community centers, administrative buildings, and agency vehicles. Tenants, members of tenants' households, tenants' guests, employees, and vendors, regardless of age, will all be prohibited from smoking. **Prohibited tobacco products include traditional lit tobacco products (such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and water pipes), as well as "e-cigarette" devices which emit only a vapor of liquid nicotine.** RRHA will not establish any designated smoking areas. Smoking within private vehicles will still be prohibited if the vehicle is within the smoke-free area.

The addendum to RRHA's public housing lease – to implement this policy- will be provided to each household. All tenants will be notified of the lease addendum signing dates for their community.

RRHA will enforce the smoke-free policy through a graduated penalty system. The smoke-free lease addendum will serve as notification of the policy and the initial warning. Following the addendum, upon RRHA's determination that a tenant, a tenant's household member, or a tenant's guest is smoking, RRHA will issue the tenant a **\$100 fine**. Upon a tenant's **second violation**, RRHA will issue a "21/30" Notice of Non-Compliance. If the tenant violates the policy once more in the eighteen months following the 21/30 Notice, RRHA will issue the tenant a 30-day Notice of Termination and initiate eviction proceedings. This penalty system was devised after numerous meetings with the RRHA Emergency Management and Communications Committee, the Richmond Tenants' Organization, various tenant councils, and RRHA staff.

RRHA will seek voluntary cooperation from tenants in enforcing the policy. Tenants will be encouraged to notify RRHA property management staff if they notice smoking in a prohibited area.

RRHA employees found to be smoking in violation of the policy will be disciplined in accordance with the RRHA Employee Standards of Conduct.

Additional information about this policy is available to tenants at their Management Office, at their Tenant Council office, and at www.rrha.com.

Tenants who are interested in quitting smoking are encouraged to call the Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) or to visit www.smokefree.gov. RRHA will also explore the provision of additional cessation support efforts, group meetings, and distribution of materials and related activities. RRHA is excited about adopting the smoke-free policy and believes the policy will create a healthier environment for children, residents, and employees in our communities.