

Spring 2010

The **Richmond City Council** recently adopted a policy **Restricting Allowable Storefront Signage to no more than 10%** as a result of the work of Discovering the Reality of Our Community (DROC), a youth-led, youth-driven alcohol and drug prevention program serving low-income high school students in Contra Costa County. Once implemented, the law will mean that city residents will be exposed to far less signage and advertising.

In February, the **Richmond City Council** adopted a **combined Alcohol and Tobacco Retailer Licensing Fee** that will recover the costs of Tobacco Retailer License administration and implementation, including issuing the license, administering the license program, retailer education, retailer inspection and compliance checks for illegal tobacco sales to minors. The City's Tobacco Retailer Licensing Program is expected to be fully implemented soon.

The **City of Pleasant Hill** adopted a **comprehensive secondhand smoke protections ordinance April 5th** prohibiting smoking in licensed childcare and health care facilities 24/7 inside, and one hour before and during the hours of operation outside; outdoor service areas (bus stops, theatre lines, etc.); outdoor events on city property except in designated smoking areas; and within 20 feet of a public entrance, exit, service entrance, or operable window of a place of employment. Multi-unit housing provisions apply to all apartment buildings with four + units and prohibit smoking in all common indoor and outdoor areas of apartment complexes and all patios and decks within 20 feet of a designated non-smoking unit. This ordinance also requires that 50% of units shall be non-smoking within five years and 100% of units in newly constructed apartment complexes be smokefree. Landlords will need to disclose the location of smoking-allowed units to all prospective tenants and those renewing leases. The Council also discussed the possibility of including condominium developments for future provisions and the possibility of reducing business license fees for landlords who convert more than 50% of their units to non-smoking.

The **City of Pinole** unanimously voted to adopt a **comprehensive secondhand smoke protections ordinance** on April 6 that will prohibit smoking: within 20 feet of doors, operable windows, air ducts, and ventilation systems of any enclosed place of employment (including smoke shops) and enclosed places open to the public; in outdoor dining areas; in outdoor lounges at places of employment; in public parks and on public trails; in service areas; at public events; and 24/7 in private residences used as licensed childcare and health care facilities. Multi-unit housing provisions apply to all buildings with two+ units and prohibit smoking in 100% of new multi-unit housing units and within 20 feet of doors, operable windows, air ducts, and ventilation systems of individual units of multi-unit housing residences. A second reading of the policy will take place at the April 19 City Council meeting.

The **Family and Human Services Committee of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors** directed staff to draft an ordinance that would expand secondhand smoke protections in multi-unit housing. A draft ordinance will be presented to the Family and Human Services Committee for consideration on May 3. Several measures will be discussed, including additional secondhand smoke provisions for multi-unit housing and enforcement measures.

The **American Lung Association (ALA)** released their **2009 State of Tobacco Control "Report Card"** in January. The report card grades how well Cities and Counties are protecting residents from the deadly toll of tobacco and is based on local ordinances for smoke-free outdoor air, smoke-free housing and reducing sales of tobacco products. Most Contra Costa County jurisdictions received failing grades, however Richmond raised its grade from an F to an A and Martinez raised its grade from an F to a B from last year. Unincorporated Contra Costa County received a B for a second year in a row. The ALA noted that the press conference releasing the report card was held in Richmond, "to highlight what can be – and has been – done when awareness is combined with commitment". Dr. Wendel Brunner, Director of Public Health for Contra Costa County, added, "Richmond has long been known for its public health problems and now it can be known for its public health solutions".

The Tobacco Prevention Coalition has adopted changes to the Coalition Operating Guidelines as an effort to include the diverse voices in the county in tobacco policy work. The coalition will now:

- Conduct active outreach to organizations that serve “priority” populations that are particularly impacted by tobacco;
- Invite organizations that serve priority populations to participate in targeted tobacco prevention policy strategy development;
- Promote in-person presentations to agencies interested in hearing more about tobacco control issues in Contra Costa County;
- Improve communication strategies with community-based organizations.

For a copy of the new Guidelines or for more information about the work conducted the TPC’s plans for building community capacity to address tobacco prevention issues, please contact Jaime Jenett at jaime.jenett@hsd.cccounty.us or call (925) 313-6216.

The Tobacco Prevention Coalition recently prioritized tobacco prevention objectives for 2010-2013.

These include furthering secondhand smoke protections in Contra Costa cities; adoption and implementation of tobacco retailer licensing in Contra Costa County; supporting FDA regulation of menthol in cigarettes by gathering resolutions from community partners; and outreach to and encourage participation in coalition advocacy activities by organizations that work with communities disproportionately targeted by the tobacco industry. For more information on the Work Plan for 2010-2013, contact Denise Dennis at (925) 313-6825 or email denise.dennis@hsd.cccounty.us.

The Tobacco Prevention Coalition hosted a talk in January called “*Tobacco-Related Health Disparities: Who is at Risk and Why?*” by Phil Gardiner, Dr.PH., Research Administrator for Social Behavioral Sciences, Nicotine Dependence & Policy, Research, Tobacco Related Disease Research Program. Dr. Gardiner discussed populations that are most affected by tobacco-related health disparities and what social and environmental factors may contribute to tobacco-related health disparities. For a copy of this presentation, go to:

http://www.cchealth.org/groups/tobacco_coalition/

San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to extend smoking restrictions to sidewalk cafes, restaurant patios, movie and ATM lines, bingo halls and the common areas of housing complexes and doorways and windows of offices, shops and restaurants on March 9. It already is illegal to smoke in offices and commercial establishments that don't have a legally designated smoking area.

San Francisco State University will begin enforcing its smoking policy, which allows smoking only in designated areas, with \$58 fines for each violation, beginning April 12, 2010. "We have tried for several years to uphold the policy through educational campaigns and voluntary respect for the health requirements of non-smokers," President Robert A. Corrigan said. "Despite these efforts, violations of the policy have continued. It is now time to put penalties in place that can help enforce the policy."

The **California’s Second District Court of Appeal became the first court in the United States to rule an apartment tenant can sue her landlord for failing to restrict cigarette smoking in outdoor common areas** like the swimming pool, playground or dining areas. In 2006, when she was five years old, Melinda Birke sued the owners of the Oakwood Garden Apartments in Woodland Hills, where she lives, for creating a public nuisance in violation of California law by allowing smoking in those areas. The panel’s groundbreaking decision on January 10 unanimously reversed a trial court ruling that dismissed Melinda’s claim. The full text of the decision can be found at the following link: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/B203093.PDF>.

Tobacco Prevention Coalition Meeting

Thursday, May 27th, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. – noon

Location TBA

**For more information, contact the Tobacco Prevention Coalition
at (925) 313-6214 or email cwebster@hsd.cccounty.us**