



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
TOBACCO PREVENTION COALITION

ALCOHOL AND OTHER
DRUGS
ADVISORY BOARD

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Martinez and Richmond Vote to Support Secondhand Smoke Protection Laws

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Martinez and Richmond both recently voted to adopt comprehensive secondhand smoke protections laws, becoming the first cities in the county to do so.

AMERICAN HEART
ASSOCIATION

These new laws will expand the current state law prohibiting smoking in indoor workplaces, as well as provide protections in many outdoor locations and in certain areas of multi-family housing. In October 2006, Contra Costa County passed a similar comprehensive law in unincorporated areas and several other Bay Area cities including Oakland, Berkeley, and Hayward have similar bans. Martinez and Richmond now have stronger protections than the county and many other cities in the Bay Area.

AMERICAN LUNG
ASSOCIATION

“We are very happy to see Martinez and Richmond take the lead among Contra Costa cities in expanding protections for residents,” said Paul Doolittle, Co-chair of the Contra Costa Tobacco Prevention Coalition. “Science clearly shows the dangers of secondhand smoke. It’s great that these cities are protecting residents from this toxic air contaminant.”

BAY AREA COMMUNITY
RESOURCES

The new ordinances in Martinez and Richmond will protect people in any indoor and outdoor workplace and within 20 feet of doors, operable windows, air ducts and ventilation systems of all indoor workplaces and buildings open to the public, not just government buildings. Smoking will be prohibited in outdoor dining areas; public parks and walking trails; service areas such as bus stops and ATM lines; and at public events. The new laws extend protection in multi-family housing (two or more units for Richmond and four or more units for Martinez) including all indoor and outdoor common areas, and within 20 feet of all doors, operable windows and ventilation ducts of any residence. In Martinez, smoking also is banned from private outdoor spaces such as balconies and patios in multi-family housing with four or more units.

CENTER FOR HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

Most provisions of the new laws will go into effect 30 days after they were approved. However, some components affecting Multi-family housing in Martinez, including landlord disclosure of location of smoking units will be phased in later to give landlords adequate time to educate residents.

COMMUNITY HEALTH
EDUCATION INSTITUTE

In discussing the proposed protections, Martinez City Councilmember Mark Ross said, “The CDC conducted a study in Colorado that showed when smoking was prohibited in bars, there was a 60% decrease in Emergency Room visits for people having cardiac arrest.”

COMMUNITY CLINIC
CONSORTIUM OF
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

In Richmond, City Councilmember Jeff Ritterman, who also is a cardiologist, introduced the ordinance by saying, “The problem is that we got a failing grade on our report card for how we deal with lowering the smoking rate in our community, particularly around young people. The health information is clear- secondhand smoke is a killer, it’s a carcinogen. The question is, what are we going to do protect the public health of people who live and work in Richmond.”

CONTRA COSTA
CHILD CARE COUNCIL

Secondhand smoke was designated as a toxic air contaminant by the California Air Resources Board in 2006. The same year, the Surgeon General concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
In Partnership with
Public School District
Tobacco Coordinators

For more information about Secondhand Smoke Protections Policies, call the Tobacco Prevention Coalition at 925-313-6214.

CONTRA COSTA
HEALTH SERVICES:
Contra Costa Health Plan
Public Health Division

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Tobacco Prevention Project
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