



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, 3 p.m. (PST).

Burbank moving forward with Public Smoking Ban

Burbank, February 1, 2007

The City of Burbank is moving forward with the draft of a formal Smoking Regulation Ordinance that will restrict smoking in the following public places:

- City Parks, including the Chandler Bikeway
- Restaurant outdoor dining areas
- Service lines, including ATM's, Valet parking, Transit stops, Movie lines
- Building Entrances (distance to be determined)
- Outdoor shopping areas including the Farmers Market
- Downtown Burbank, Empire Center and Magnolia Park

The City Council directed Staff to come back with the draft ordinance at Tuesday night's Council meeting, during which they also adopted a Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance (5-0 Vote).

During Council deliberations, Vice-Mayor Marsha Ramos expressed a strong desire to "take a bite at it now" in order to get something in place that would cover most of the problem areas in Burbank. Councilman Jef Vander Bought demonstrated the public's overwhelming support for the measure by showing a 1" thick stack of emails he'd received in favor vs. 4 emails against, which appeared to quell attempts to slow down the process from two of his fellow Councilmen. Mayor Todd Campbell, a clean-air advocate, debunked several misleading statements made by Councilman Dr. David Gordon, including "no evidence of second-hand smoke being harmful" and an inappropriate comparison of second-hand smoke to barbeque smoke.

The ordinance still allows people to smoke in their homes and on sidewalks in residential areas. There will be designated smoking areas in the major retail shopping centers to provide a place where smokers can still take a puff without blowing smoke in the faces of the greater majority (adults & children) who don't.

“The Council’s actions sends a very clear message that we care about the health and quality of life of all Burbank residents and (their) children” said Eric Michael Cap, who along with Robert Phipps, has been lobbying the City to follow the footsteps of Santa Monica and Calabasas who adopted similar ordinances in 2006.

“All we want is clean air” says Phipps, a former smoker and cancer survivor who is also lobbying Sherman Oaks Galleria to create designated smoking areas.

Burbank is part of a growing group of cities taking unprecedented steps to protect their residents from the health dangers and nuisance of second-hand smoke. Cap sums up:

“I truly believe this landmark decision, combined with a Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance that will greatly reduce the illegal and immoral sale of cigarettes to minors, will have very positive impact in our community. In some cases those impacts will be life changing; people will live healthier and longer lives, especially those teens & adults who will be further discouraged from smoking”.

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Web site: <http://www.SmokeFreeBurbank.com>