

MOTION

Evidence shows that smoking and second-hand smoke have negative effects on one's health. The majority of smokers begin before the age of 18 and 1 out of 3 smokers began smoking before the age of 14. There are approximately 4.8 million deaths worldwide from smoking each year. Secondhand smoke exposure causes as many as 300,000 children in the United States under the age of 19 months to suffer lower respiratory tract infections and exacerbates child asthma. The Environmental Protection Agency has found secondhand smoke to be a risk to public health and has classified it as a Group A carcinogen, the most dangerous class of carcinogens.

The City of Los Angeles has taken an active role in protecting people from the dangers of secondhand smoke through the enactment and enforcement of ordinances regulating smoking in various places. In 2002, the City banned smoking within 25 feet of playground equipment, bleachers, backstops, sports courts and fields, and picnic areas. In 2004, the City further banned smoking on City beaches. In 2007, the City enacted an ordinance to prohibit smoking in City parks, except on golf courses, for filming purposes, and within certain designated areas in larger parks. These ordinances seek to protect those who utilize public resources from the hazards of secondhand smoke.

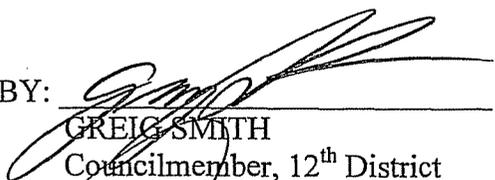
Other cities have also enacted ordinances that ban smoking in certain public areas. In the City of Calabasas smoking is prohibited in any public place or private place open to the general public, including streets sidewalks, plazas, parks, buses, etc. In Malibu, smoking is prohibited on the Malibu Pier and at any public beach except parking lots and roadway areas. In Glendale, smoking is prohibited in outdoor seating areas and service lines or within 25 feet of these areas during outdoor events and where people wait for any type of goods or services.

The City of Burbank also recently enacted an ordinance that prohibits smoking in all City parks and facilities and all areas within 20 feet, all sidewalks and pedestrian areas in Downtown Burbank and all areas within 5 feet, City transit vehicles and station platforms and all areas within 20 feet of station platforms, outdoor dining areas and all areas within 5 feet, and various other locations throughout the City.

While many provisions of the Burbank ordinance have already been enacted in the City of Los Angeles, banning smoking in outdoor dining areas and all areas within 5 feet, which is not currently prohibited in the City, will aid in further protecting people from the danger of secondhand smoke. Furthermore, this ordinance would be in line with existing policies throughout the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance to prohibit smoking in outdoor dining areas and within five feet of such areas, similar to a recent ordinance enacted by the City of Burbank.

PRESENTED BY:


GREIG SMITH
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:





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