

SMOKE-FREE HOUSING POLICY

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners on November 20, 2013

The West Springfield Housing Authority (WSHA) Board of Commissioners finds that:

Whereas, the West Springfield Housing Authority has conducted a survey of its public housing residents and has determined that:

- 59% of respondents are very interested in eliminating smoking in its public housing developments;
- 54% of respondents indicated that all residents should be required to comply with a no smoking policy.
- 48% reported that the policy should be implemented at the same time, throughout the entire agency;

Whereas, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, has concluded that (1) secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; (2) children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory problems, ear infections, and asthma attacks and that smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children; (3) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer; (4) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and (5) establishing smoke-free workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace, because ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke;

Whereas, the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program (NTP) has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen;

Whereas, inasmuch as there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) determined that there is currently no air filtration or other ventilation technology that can completely eliminate all the carcinogenic components in secondhand smoke and the health risks caused by secondhand smoke exposure, and recommends that indoor environments be smoke-free in their entirety;

Whereas, smoking is known to be a leading cause of residential fires and fire injuries and deaths;

Whereas, smoking in residential units greatly increases the time and cost involved in maintaining those units and in making them ready for re-occupancy by new residents;

Whereas, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has strongly encouraged public housing authorities to adopt smoke-free policies to protect residents, employees, and members of the public;

Now therefore, the West Springfield Housing Authority adopts this smoke-free housing policy for its entire public housing portfolio and all other buildings under its ownership or management;

1. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in any buildings operated, owned and managed by the WSHA, including apartments, office space and common areas (hereinafter referred to as PROPERTY or PROPERTIES), and on any grounds owned or managed by the WSHA (hereinafter referred to as GROUNDS) in accordance with the following schedule:

- **Effective July 1, 2014** and thereafter, all residents, guests of residents, employees and all other persons present upon WSHA PROPERTIES, will be prohibited from smoking anywhere in the PROPERTIES.
 - **Effective July 1, 2015** and thereafter, all residents guests of residents, employees and other persons present upon WSHA GROUNDS will be prohibited from smoking anywhere on the GROUNDS.
 - Failure of any resident to comply with the smoke-free policy will be considered to be in violation of their lease, and failure of any employee to comply with the smoke-free policy may be subject to disciplinary action
2. Any deviation from the smoke-free policy by any resident, member of their household, or their guest(s) will be considered a lease violation and subject to lease enforcement.
 3. “Smoke-free Building” signs will be posted on the exteriors of all multi-family buildings and group residences.
 4. If a resident detects tobacco smoke in any place on the PROPERTY or GROUNDS, they are to report this to the management office as soon as possible. Management will seek the source of the smoke and take appropriate action.
 5. All residents will be given two copies of the smoke-free policy. After review, the resident will sign both copies, retaining one for their records and returning the second to their management office to be retained in the resident file.
 6. The WSHA will endeavor to assist residents and employees who so request to obtain access to smoking cessation programs and to identify resources to make those programs affordable to such residents and employees.

RESIDENT CERTIFICATION

I have read and understand the smoke-free housing policy and I agree to comply fully with its provisions. I understand that failure to comply may constitute reason for termination of my lease.

Resident Signature – Head of Household

Date

Address

**FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THIS POLICY AS
ADDENDUM TO RESIDENT PUBLIC HOUSING LEASE SHALL CONSTITUTE A
VIOLATION OF SAID LEASE AND MAY SUBJECT THE HOUSEHOLD TO
ENFORCEABLE LEASE TERMINATION.**

There is much help available for those persons who would like to quit the use of tobacco products. For more information, please refer to the following organizations or websites:

- American Lung Association
HelpLine and Tobacco QuitLine
1-800-548-8252
www.lungusa.org
Freedom From Smoking Online
1-800-LUNG-USA
www.ffsonline.org
- Gandara Center
Smoke Free Homes
1-800-879-8678
- Massachusetts Department of Health
QuitWorks
1-800-879-8678
www.trytostop.org
makesmokinghistory.org
- MassHealth
617-573-1770
- Neighborhood Health Plan
1-800-433-5556 extension 1447
quitsmoking@nhp.org