



Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, Missouri

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To: All CHA Residents

From: Lee Radtke, Director of Public Housing Operations

Date: November 3, 2014

RE: CHA to Develop Policy on Smoke-Free Buildings

The Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) believes that the health of our residents is directly related to the quality of life of our public housing communities. To improve the overall health of our communities, CHA is developing a policy to prohibit smoking inside all CHA buildings. Smoking will still be allowed on the grounds.

CHA has four goals for the smoke-free building policy:

1. Reduce everyone's exposure to second hand smoke
2. Improve indoor air quality for everyone
3. Reduce the chance of death from smoking-related fires
4. Reduce unit restoration costs

Smokers will still be able to apply for housing, move into housing and live in housing. They will just have to smoke outside.

CHA is not asking anyone to stop smoking, but we realize some smokers may view this as an opportunity to stop smoking. We are working with area agencies to provide cessation materials and support to any resident who decides to stop smoking.

All residents will enjoy improved indoor air quality. Second hand smoke travels between apartments and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has declared that there is no technology which can clean the air within multifamily housing. According to the Surgeon General and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), persons exposed to any amount of second hand smoke are 20-30% more likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke than people not exposed to second hand smoke. Something as simple as stepping outside to smoke can improve everyone's health!

CHA will meet with residents at all the sites at least once a month for the next six months to discuss the policy and keep everyone updated on the progress. In addition, the Resident Advisory Board will have three meetings to work on the policy. Any resident may attend any or all of these meetings. The public – including residents – will have 60 days from the date of this memo to comment on the proposed policy. We want to make a good working policy so please do not hesitate to submit ideas at the site offices or the Administrative building at 201 Switzler. Come share your ideas and ask questions at the meetings in your community!