

Petaluma, Dublin Approves New Smoking Restrictions

The Petaluma City Council on Monday night unanimously passed an ordinance that bans smoking in apartments and other units of multi-family dwellings, as well as in hotels and motels.

The anti-smoking ordinance that was initially under consideration would have allowed smoking in no more than 20 percent of hotel and motel rooms, but at the last minute, the City Council decided in favor of a complete smoking ban, Councilwoman Teresa Barrett said Tuesday morning.

The ordinance also bans outdoor smoking in areas including bus stops, dining areas, recreation facilities, and outside designated smoking areas at public events.

The ordinance will take effect on Aug. 1, 2013, at buildings still under construction and on Jan. 1, 2014, at existing housing units, hotels and motels, said Petaluma Police Chief Pat Williams, a supporter of the ordinance.

The city of Dublin has enacted one of the East Bay's strictest tobacco ordinances as the City Council gave final approval to rules that bar new tobacco sellers from opening near schools, parks or day care centers.

The council also banned smoking in public parks, and set up a city licensing system for 25 tobacco retailers in the city. The businesses will be required to pay fees to fund decoy visits to stores to check for illegal sales to minors.

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