

**NEW LONDON HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
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**City of New London Housing Authority**  
**SMOKE-FREE HOUSING POLICY**

(Adopted: August 29th, 2011)

To insure the quality of air and the safety of residents in housing units owned and operated by the City of New London Housing Authority (NLHA), the Board of Commissioners has declared that all Housing Authority property are herein designated as smoke free buildings. Smoking is not permitted in any area of the building including apartments, except for residents with temporary exemptions from this policy, as described herein. Smoking is only permitted in the specifically designated area, outside of the buildings. All tenants, employees and guests must abide by the following rules and regulations.

**The City of New London Housing Authority Board of Commissioners finds that:**

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; (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; and (6) evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke-free policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on the real estate industry.

Numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of approximately 53,000 Americans annually. The Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program (NTP) has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen.

Based on a finding by the California Environmental Protection Agency in 2005, the California Air Resources Board has determined that secondhand smoke is a toxic air contaminant, finding that exposure to secondhand smoke has serious health effects, including low birth-weight babies; sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS); increased respiratory infections in children; asthma in children and adults; lung cancer, sinus cancer, and breast cancer in younger, premenopausal women; heart disease; and death.

Inasmuch as there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) bases its ventilation standards on totally smoke-free environments. ASHRAE has 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.

**Additional Risks:**

Many people with respiratory problems now use home oxygen systems. Some people continue to smoke while on oxygen which can be deadly to them and to people around them.

Oxygen increases the speed at which things burn once a fire starts. Home oxygen therapy increases the amount of oxygen in the environment. It will saturate clothing, fabric, hair and anything in the area. Even flame-retardant clothing can burn when the oxygen content increases. Home oxygen is pure O<sub>2</sub> — the fuel required for fire to burn. In the presence

of an open flame or spark, pure oxygen can ignite. And if a fire is already burning, bottles of home oxygen can suddenly and violently explode or release their contents into the fire, giving it more fuel, and quickly turning a small fire into a massive blaze. These fires can be more deadly for residents and more dangerous for responding firefighters.

Therefore, the City of New London Housing Authority Board of Commissioners adopts this smoke-free housing policy for all properties owned and managed by the Housing Authority:

1. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in any buildings including apartments, in accordance with the following schedule. Effective on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, all current residents, all employees, all guests and all new residents of all City of New London Housing Authority owned or managed properties after this date will be prohibited from smoking anywhere in the buildings, including in apartment units. Failure of any resident to follow the smoke-free policy will be considered a lease violation.
2. According to HUD statute *24 CFR 966.4(j)(2)* PHA staff may enter the units without notice if a there is reasonable cause to enter. Some examples of an emergency are, but not limited to, unusual or loud noises, unusual odor, odor or visual evidence of smoke, etc. Enforcement of the smoking policy will be as follows
  - a. First Offense: **Written Notice**
  - b. Second Offense: **\$150.00 Fine**
  - c. Third Offense: **Eviction & \$200.00 Fine**

*24 CFR 966.4(j)(2) The PHA may enter the dwelling unit at anytime without advance notification when there is reasonable cause to believe that an emergency exists.*