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On September 17, 2014, the CHA Board of Commissioners approved a plan to make all its properties smoke-free effective September 1, 2015. This policy was further amended on September 21, 2016, and on November 20, 2024.

HUD's definition of "smoke-free" is the prohibition of tobacco products in all living units, common areas, community rooms, laundry rooms, hallways, stairways, elevators, administrative offices, balconies, entryways, and all outdoor areas up to 25 feet from the Public Housing buildings and administrative offices.

Smoking is defined as ignition, burning, inhaling, exhaling, breathing, carrying or possession of tobacco leaves, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, waterpipes (hookahs), marijuana, medical marijuana and any other product containing any amount of tobacco in addition to E-cigarettes and similar products by which vapor is inhaled.

The CHA's support for this initiative is a proactive measure to improve the health of our residents and to negate the health impacts caused by secondhand smoke. This policy, in particular, improves the lives of our senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and children in our family developments. The Board strongly supports this important public health initiative on behalf of all CHA residents.

Furthermore, smoking indoors causes significant repairs and maintenance costs due to damage caused by secondhand smoke, such as nicotine-stained walls and surfaces which will be averted by this policy.

The CHA has provided residents with the opportunity for comment and provided them with information explaining the dangers of secondhand smoke.

The smoke-free housing initiative does **not** apply to residents that reside in privately owned units and receive rental subsidies under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program or State Rental Assistance Program.