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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Milpitas: New Smoking Ordinance Bans Smoking in Outdoor Dining Areas

MILPITAS, CA – Cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States. Since February 2nd, 2017 Milpitas has expanded its smoking ban to include dining establishments, patios, and recreational areas. City staffers' expanded the definition of recreational spaces to include gardens, bike paths, and hiking trails. Cigarettes butts cannot be disposed of in prohibited areas. Additionally, Milpitas' ordinance prohibits smoking tobacco within 25 feet of outside dining areas and someone caught smoking in these non-smoking areas would be fined \$250-- [view city council meeting](#) for more information.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, secondhand smoke causes numerous health problems in infants and children, including more frequent and severe asthma attacks, respiratory infections, ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

The notion to add on smokefree outdoor dining to Milpitas existing smoking ordinance came from then-Mayor Jose Esteves in collaboration with Breathe California of the Bay Area's (BCBA) executive director, Ilyasha Peete and tobacco control and health program specialist, Nidhi Badiyani. BCBA collaborated with Milpitas city staff to collect data from businesses and held an educational presentation on the issue for the Board of Directors at Chamber of Commerce. BCBA collected 52 individual public opinion surveys from Milpitas residents: 89% of Milpitas residents surveyed favor a non-smoking policy in outdoor dining areas in their city, followed by 87% of non-residents who also favor a non-smoking policy in Milpitas.

Secondhand smoke can be especially harmful to your children's health because their lungs still are developing. "This ordinance acts as a model of healthy behavior for children," Badiyani told the council.

Residents stayed until midnight to show support of the ordinance. Milpitas resident and soccer coach, Jackie Romero, mentioned how people smoke near their practices and some soccer players with asthma are affected by it. The ordinance was also backed by Milpitas Chamber of Commerce. "We support it and believe it is favor worthy of pursuing," said their chief financial officer Tom Valore.

About Breathe California of the Bay Area:

BCBA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which was founded in San Jose, California in 1911. Although originally centered on combating tuberculosis, programs are now focused on fighting all lung diseases as well as promoting clean, healthy air. BCBA continues to advocate on behalf of non-smokers. BCBA believes non-smokers should be free from exposure to secondhand smoke in public places.

Contact Nidhi Badiyani at 408-998-5865 on having a policy in your city or if your organization would like to implement a smokefree environment.

By: Melissa Renteria

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