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## Saratoga: Grade

SAN JOSE, CA --- Looking to live in a smoke-free environment? Look no further, Saratoga has set a prime example for all other cities in Santa Clara County on becoming smoke-free. Since 2009 Saratoga has taken the stand to protect its community from the negative health impacts of second-hand tobacco smoke and improve their tobacco control grade from F to A.

One of Saratoga's most recent ordinances unanimously passed, on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, was item 2.2 Ordinance Amending Smoking and Tobacco Retailer Regulations. The ordinance prohibits smoking in common areas of multifamily developments, new rental apartment complexes built after September 2016, at outdoor events with children present, 20 feet from entryways to enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited, in outdoor dining areas, and in all service areas and at all outdoor work-sites.

After the ordinance was proposed Vice-Mayor Emily Lo (currently Mayor) asked, "What about construction sites? Are they subject to this ordinance?" Yes, under item 2.2, construction sites would be considered as an outdoor work site and the workers would be subject to the restriction of smoking outdoors.

It's important for communities to continue focusing on achieving smoke-free air among every location for the benefit of keeping outdoor areas, children, and pets free of pollution.

Nidhi Badiyani Panjwani of Breathe California of the Bay Area (BCBA), made a public comment in support of the smoke-free ordinance, "By implementing a smoke-free ordinance in the city of Saratoga this will significantly protect the most vulnerable population such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly." Additionally, BCBA conducted public opinion surveys in Saratoga. Results from the survey showed 82% of 51 respondents believe it is harmful to sit near someone who is smoking, 71% agree patrons shouldn't be allowed to smoke in outdoor dining areas and 88% of respondents are in favor of having a non-smoking policy in outdoor areas in Saratoga.

Councilmember Rishi Kumar made a final comment stating that item 2.2 is "Creating one more level of safety for our citizens of Saratoga."

Saratoga's tobacco control grade efforts from F to A:

- 2009: Requiring new tobacco retailers to have a conditional use permit, which limited sales in a given area, near schools, and city parks
- 2010: Saratoga adopting smoke-free recreational area, where the city prohibited the use of tobacco products in city parks and recreational areas
- 2015: Saratoga city council adopted an ordinance prohibiting electronic smoking devices in city parks and recreational areas. Additionally the city established a licensing program to strengthen its tobacco control
- 2016: Saratoga city council adopted an ordinance to prohibit smoking in multifamily housing common areas, new rental apartment complexes, at outdoor events with children present, 20 feet from entryways to enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited, in outdoor dining areas, and in all service areas and at all outdoor worksites

### **About Breathe California of the Bay Area:**

BCBA has been based in San Jose since 1911. BCBA promotes lung health and provides services to the residents of Santa Clara, San Benito, and Alameda County. BCBA works towards fighting lung disease in all its forms including protecting communities from flavored tobacco products. BCBA provides support, guidance, and education to cities in Santa Clara County about secondhand smoke exposure, implementing smoke-free ordinances, flavored tobacco products, and other regulations around tobacco use.

By: Melissa Renteria