**Sample PHA Community Newsletter Article
For Use by Minnesota Public Housing Providers**

**Our building is going smoke free to bring cleaner and safer air to all residents!
[Date]**

Have you heard the good news? **[Property/building name]** is going smoke free! In November, 2016, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a new rule restricting the use of prohibited tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and hookah, in all public housing. The management team at **[property/building name]** is very excited about this new rule because it will benefit all of us who live and work here by making our community healthier, cleaner, and safer.

Secondhand smoke is the smoke that comes off of a lit cigarette or is exhaled by a smoker. Did you know that secondhand smoke contains thousands of chemicals and at least 70 of them can cause cancer? The United States Surgeon General warns that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. **[Property/building]** name will be a healthier place to live when the air is free of secondhand smoke.

Our community will also become cleaner because of the smoke-free rule. Smoking indoors can cause damage to our building including yellow stains on surfaces, persistent odor, and cigarette burns. It can be very costly to clean up and turnover apartments that have been damaged by smoke. Going smoke free will make our community cleaner and it will save money for our building.

One more benefit of going smoke free is that the risk of a fire at **[property/building name]** will be reduced. Smoking is the number one cause of fire death in Minnesota and nationwide. Fires can start on decks and porches as well as in units. The smoke-free rule is an important way to protect everyone in the building from costly and deadly fires.

The smoke-free rule does not require anyone to quit smoking. For those residents who are interested in quitting smoking or cutting back, QUITPLAN® Services offers free services to help. To learn more about QUITPLAN® Services visit [www.quitplan.com](http://www.quitplan.com), call 1-888-354-7526, or visit the management office to pick up a brochure.

The management team at **[property/building name]** knows that this policy change will be difficult for some of our residents. All residents are invited to a community meeting on **[date/time]** to discuss the smoke-free rule. Residents are encouraged to contact management at **[contact information]** with any questions or concerns about the smoke-free rule.

The management team at **[property/building name]** is pleased to join over 2,400 apartment buildings in Minnesota that are already smoke free and looks forward to providing all residents with a healthier, cleaner, and safer community!

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