



City of Arts & Innovation

Utility Services/Land Use/ Energy Development Committee

TO: UTILITY SERVICES/LAND USE/ENERGY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS **DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2016**

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER MAC ARTHUR **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 6.23 TO THE RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

ISSUE:

Review the proposed ordinance to add a new chapter 6.23 to the Riverside Municipal Code to prohibit smoking in public places.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Utility Services, Land Use, and Energy Development Committee review the proposed ordinance and forward the recommendation to the City Council to add a new chapter to the Riverside Municipal Code to prohibit smoking in public places.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the City has a ban on smoking in effect in relation to City Parks and City buildings and entrances/exits to City buildings, as smoking is prohibited within 20 feet of building entryways. Riverside Municipal Code section 9.08.140 prohibits smoking within City Parks and provides the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director with the authority to designate prohibited smoking areas with appropriate signage. There are no further restrictions in the Municipal Code that pertain to smoking in public places.

The smoking of tobacco is a danger to the health and a material annoyance, inconvenience, discomfort and a possible health hazard to those who are present in confined spaces. The proposed ordinance will add the use of electronic cigarettes to be prohibited in locations where smoking is prohibited, including City-owned buildings. This ordinance is a public safety effort and will protect the health of the citizens of the City of Riverside. It will also protect youth from observing behaviors that could encourage them to smoke tobacco and tobacco related products.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed ordinance adds a new chapter 6.23 to the Riverside Municipal Code to prohibit

smoking in public places such as city buildings, facilities and community centers; bars; restaurants; stores; stadiums; service areas such as gas stations or ATM lines; playgrounds; taxis; buses or public transit stops. Smoking is defined to include any cigar, cigarette, pipe, electronic smoking device (such as an e-cigarette), or any similar kind of smoking equipment or article, using any form of tobacco, plant product, or other combustible substance in any form. The adoption of an ordinance will preserve the public health, safety and welfare and will ensure that public places are safe and free from smoking and its related hazards.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Chris Mac Arthur, Councilmember – Ward 5

Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Mac Arthur", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Mac Arthur, Councilmember – Ward 5

Attachments: Draft Ordinance