

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

Councilman Smith Introduces Motion to Ban Smoking in Outdoor Dining Areas

Los Angeles – Councilman Greig Smith introduced legislation on Wednesday, June 11, that would prohibit smoking in outdoor patios where food is served and within five feet of such outdoor dining areas in the City of Los Angeles. Bars would be excluded.

“One of the greatest assets we have here in L.A. is our beautiful, warm weather,” Councilman Smith said. “It is unfair and unhealthy for non-smokers, including children, to have to breathe in secondhand smoke if they want to enjoy the pleasure of a meal or a cup of coffee outdoors on a patio.”

Since California enacted a statewide ban on workplace smoking to protect customers and workers from secondhand smoke, the outdoor seating areas of restaurants and coffee shops in L.A. have become dominated by smokers. That means that non-smokers cannot enjoy outdoor dining without breathing in harmful secondhand smoke, even though smokers form only a small segment of the population.

Evidence shows that smoking and second-hand smoke have major negative health effects. There are approximately 4.8 million deaths worldwide from smoking each year. Secondhand smoke exposure causes as many as 300,000 children in the United States under the age of 19 months to suffer lower respiratory tract infections and exacerbates child asthma. The Environmental Protection Agency has found secondhand smoke to be a risk to public health and has classified it as a Group A carcinogen, the most dangerous class of carcinogens.

In an effort to protect the health of the public from secondhand smoke, Los Angeles has already prohibited smoking in City parks and beaches (except on golf courses, for filming purposes, and within certain designated areas in larger parks).

Many other cities have banned smoking in certain public areas, including Calabasas, Malibu, Glendale, and Burbank.

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