

**HASLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**  
**TOBACCO USE POLICY DISCUSSION \***

**April 15, 2010**

**New Business**

**1. Consideration of Recommendation for a “No Smoking” Ban in Public Housing per recommendation from the Resident Advisory Board (RAB).**

**Art Apruzzese**, Chair of the RAB (Resident Advisory Board) thanked the Board Members for all that they do and said the RAB was very supportive. Apruzzese discussed results of the survey by the RAB. Apruzzese said 52% of the residents surveyed favored a total ban on the use of all tobacco products in their apartment complexes; 23.5% supported a partial ban on the use of all tobacco products with smoking restricted to designated areas only; and 24.5% felt there should be no ban on the use of tobacco products. Apruzzese said they attempted to survey 198 people with 110 people actually cooperating. Apruzzese explained the reason the RAB board recommended a total ban on smoking which included: health reasons, danger of fire, and costs associated with smoking (i.e., health costs, costs to clean apartments for new tenants, etc.). Apruzzese provided information on other Housing Authorities that have implemented at least some aspect of a no smoking ban. A discussion ensued regarding smoking complaints. **Hatley** (Carol Hatley, HASLO Executive Director) said the most complaints had come from the senior projects because of their health issues. **Booker** (David Booker, Chairman, HASLO Board of Commissioners) reported all Board Members had read the RAB report and all understood the health issues of secondhand smoke. Booker explained he was in favor of it, but asked where the government’s intervention would stop and where did individual responsibility start. Apruzzese reported a recent development of a new City policy which would affect apartments with a ban on smoking in common areas. If approved it would become effective May 20<sup>th</sup>. Apruzzese said the Board of Commissioners would have to take that law into consideration when making a decision.

Apruzzese indicated the RAB is recommending a total ban on smoking. Booker questioned the difficulty of enforcement. Apruzzese said it could be done with lease violations and felt initially it might be difficult, but said those that want to smoke would probably move out and there were plenty of people who would want to move in. Booker commented there would be costs to enforcing the no smoking policy. Apruzzese suggested talking with the Housing Authorities that had implemented such a ban. Booker thought that was a good idea to know the pros and cons in order to make a decision. **Milliken** (Mandi Milliken, HASLO Commission Member) asked if there was data showing the number of complaints about smoking. Hatley explained there had been some complaints, but minimal. **Chubon** (HASLO Commission Member) questioned how the survey was taken and Apruzzese said door to door. Chubon also questioned how many people were present at the RAB meeting to vote and Apruzzese answered four (4). Apruzzese explained the difficulty of attendance and being able to have a quorum at the meetings. Booker thanked Apruzzese for his involvement and assured him the Board knew the problems well. Hatley explained the Housing Authority staff had met and discussed the pros and cons to a no smoking policy. Further discussion ensued regarding the legal ramifications, HUD’s recommendations and proactive ways to deal with the issue. Hatley said staff felt an encouragement of moving in the direction of a no smoking policy instead of a complete ban

immediately. Hatley said several of the surveys comment section had concern of the no smoking policy as an imposition on their rights. Hatley was concerned about good tenants who pay their rent, keep their unit clean and the problems with trying to evict based on smoking alone. Hatley indicated perhaps some buildings on each complex could be implemented in phases. Milliken mentioned the medical Marijuana issues and a discussion ensued. Chubon suggested, and Booker concurred, waiting on any action until the city fully adopted the no smoking policy, and until the number of people it affects is known, etc. Chubon requested staff find out how many people this affects by mailing out postcards before the next meeting. **A motion to defer action on the Smoking policy until the City acts and then address this at the next meeting was made by Commissioner Chubon, seconded by (Commissioner) Nelson and unanimously approved.** Booker thanked Apruzzese for his service.

\* Art Apruzzese, Chair of the HASLO Resident Advisory Board (RAB), typed this segment of the complete, official minutes of the HASLO Board of Commissioners meeting, April 15, 2010 so that the minutes regarding the Smoking Policy issue could be read by members of the Resident Advisory Board at their next scheduled regular meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2010. The full text of these minutes is available at the HASLO office in San Luis Obispo or from Art Apruzzese.