



"Great Apartments Start Here!"

Janet M. Gagnon, Esq.
Senior Manager,
Government Affairs
janet@aagla.org
213.384.4131; Ext. 307

July 29, 2021
Via Electronic Mail

Hon. Mayor Eric Alegria and
Members of Rancho Palos Verdes City Council
29301 Hawthorne Boulevard
Rancho Palos Verdes, California 90275

Re: Consideration and possible action to initiate code amendment proceedings to amend the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code (RPVMC) to develop a smoke-free ordinance in multi-family housing units. (Agenda Item 5)

Dear Hon. Mayor Alegria and Members of Rancho Palos Verdes City Council:

At the August 3rd City Council meeting, the Council will be discussing possible code amendment proceedings to develop a smoke-free ordinance in multifamily housing units. As the Council engages in this discussion, the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles (AAGLA or Association) would like to be included in the discussions and the opportunity to share our extensive industry knowledge should the Council direct that staff explore this matter further.

The Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles (AAGLA or Association), established in 1917, represents more than 10,000 members that own or manage more than 200,000 rental housing units throughout San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties. Our Association was recently granted an expansion of its charter through the National Apartment Association to include the City of Long Beach and the surrounding cities, and we now represent the interests of Rancho Palos Verdes' rental housing providers.

The Association has a great deal of experience on the topic of smoke-free multifamily housing. Over the past several years, we have collaborated with the University of California at Los Angeles' (UCLA) Center for Health Policy Research on behalf of the City of Los Angeles to survey housing



“Great Apartments Start Here!”

providers and conduct research on smoke-free housing and to help establish guidelines for adopting smoke-free multifamily housing policies. Additionally, we have collaborated on two studies conducted on behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, one of which is still ongoing, to assess smoke-free housing policy implementation and enforcement within four incorporated cities and most recently within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

We appreciate the City Council Staff’s efforts in fully investigating the extent of the issue in Rancho Palos Verdes, the research on the 13 out of 88 cities in Los Angeles County that have similar ordinances and the number of units in Rancho Palos Verdes that would be impacted by a new smoke-free multifamily housing ordinance (3,197). We agree with Staff’s recommendation that if the City Council decides to move forward with such an ordinance, the City Council should first direct Staff to conduct opinion surveys and meetings with residents, homeowners’ associations, and other stakeholders with the intent of gaining insight on their smoking preferences for consideration at a future meeting. We would request that AAGLA and multifamily housing providers specifically be added to this list for surveys and meetings, since they represent 34% of the units that would be directly impact by such an ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these matters. If you have any questions, please call me at (213) 384-4131; Ext. 307 or contact me via electronic mail at janet@aagla.org.

Very truly yours,

Janet M. Gagnon

Janet M. Gagnon, Esq.