

Bend City Council Approves Tobacco-Free Campus

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The Bend City Council approved a motion to adopt a Tobacco-free Campus ordinance during its November 15th Council Meeting. The ordinance is designed to reinforce a tobacco-free lifestyle by regulating public and city employee tobacco use at City/Bend Urban Renewal Agency (BURA) owned facilities where official city business is conducted. By adopting the ordinance, the City of Bend is sending an important message that public health of all Bend residents is paramount to a safe, healthy community. In addition, the Bend2030 Community Vision document includes a key vision element (Safe, Healthy People -â€“ number 11) envisioning the elimination of smoking in public buildings/facilities. The tobacco-free campus ordinance includes City and BURA facilities, including but not limited to: City Hall, Public Works, police station, fire stations, and Hawthorne Transit Station. It also includes the regulation of the exterior of buildings from the edge of the building to the public sidewalk -- including parking lots. City campuses do not include the public sidewalk within the public right-of-way. In the ordinance, tobacco products are designated as any tobacco cigarette, cigar, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, chewing tobacco, or any other form of tobacco which may be utilized for smoking, chewing, inhalation, or other means of ingestion. In the fall the City Council Public Health and Safety sub-committee directed staff to draft a tobacco-free campus ordinance for city campuses. The committee approved and forwarded the tobacco-free campus ordinance to the City Council on October 16, 2006. The ordinance will become effective on March 1, 2007.

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