



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Pleasanton Youth Commission Seeks Ban on All Outdoor Smoking Within City Parks** *Only Golf Course Would be Exempt*

*Pleasanton, CA*—Last night, the City Council approved an ordinance to ban all smoking in city parks and on city trails, exempting only the golf course from the ban. Put forward by the Pleasanton Youth Commission, this ban on smoking will take effect in the coming months.

“I want to applaud the initiative of our Youth Commission,” said Susan Andrade-Wax, Director of Community Services. “We tried some time back to get a ban on smoking, but now public health risks associated with smoking and secondhand smoke are such that the time is right to take action, and we really appreciate all the hard work our commissioners put into this effort.”

The Youth Commission began investigating the city’s current smoking restrictions roughly 2 years ago and compared it against other cities throughout the state. They also took the added step of creating a public policy sub-committee, which participated in the Alameda County Public Health Department’s “Project Teen Friendly; this involved surveying the community about tobacco products being sold in local stores, observing how tobacco is being used in Pleasanton, and surveying general community opinions about smoking and its effects in our community.

“There are 3 primary reasons we believe this ban is important for our community,” said Andrade-Wax. “Of the 7,000 chemicals in cigarettes, 69 are known carcinogens; we believe smoking and secondhand smoke is a health hazard, a fire hazard, and cigarette butts create an environmental problem with littering in our city.”

Currently, there are 175 municipalities in California alone that ban smoking in city parks, according to the American Nonsmokers’ Right Foundation. Over 1,000 municipalities have a similar ban throughout the United States.

The Youth Commission Public Policy Subcommittee members whose initiative resulted in the proposed ordinance include Meghna Sinha, Winne Zhou, Megan Slonksnis, Ann Lee, Michelle Zhou and Dhruv Parmar.

### **About the City of Pleasanton**

*The City of Pleasanton is a vibrant Northern California community of 70,000 residents situated at the crossroads of Interstates 580 and 680, in close proximity to the San Francisco and San Jose metropolitan areas. The city's location has historical significance as a major trading route of early Native Americans and later along the route of the [First Transcontinental Railroad](#). Pleasanton is a major suburb identified by the U.S. Census as one of the wealthiest middle-sized cities in the nation and, in 2010, was included on Money Magazine's list of the '100 Best Small Cities to Live in America.' Among Pleasanton's many attractions are an excellent school system, a highly educated workforce, 1,200 acres of parkland and recreational open space, a nationally recognized business park, a regional retail shopping mall, and a historic downtown district. For more information, please visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us).*

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