North Coastal Prevention Coalition

Serving the communities of Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista

NCPC North Coastal Prevention Coalition

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NASADAD National Exemplary Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices, & Policies

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... and various community members

January 21, 2015

ITEM NO. 20

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and City Councilmembers
City of Oceanside
300 North Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054

Dear Oceanside Mayor, Deputy Mayor and City Councilmembers:

On behalf of the North Coastal Prevention Coalition, we are requesting that you revisit an important policy at your Council meeting on February 18, 2015 to protect public health by prohibiting smoking on outdoor dining patios in Oceanside.

The mission of NCPC is *"to reduce the harm of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs in the cities of Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista through community action, education, support and collaboration."*

The City of Oceanside has taken great strides in protecting the public from the dangers of tobacco smoke – including establishing smoke-free parks and beaches, civic center and by prohibiting the use of electronic smoking devices where smoking is prohibited.

Over 119 communities in California have established smoke-free outdoor dining policies, including the City of Los Angeles. In San Diego County, the cities of Carlsbad, Coronado, Encinitas, Solana Beach, Del Mar, Chula Vista, National City and El Cajon have also adopted policies prohibiting smoking on outdoor dining patios.

Oceanside is a Live Well! partner with the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, embarking on a roadmap for the future to achieve the vision of a safe, healthy and thriving county. There is tremendous public support for smoke-free outdoor dining. Based on a recent public opinion poll of over 600 Oceanside residents collected at community events, farmers markets, and outdoor public eating areas: 94% agree that secondhand smoke is bad for their health, even when they are outside; 90% reported that they prefer to eat in areas where smoking is NOT allowed when they dine outside; and 80% agree that cities should have laws that ban smoking on outdoor dining patios and sidewalk cafes.

As a coalition that is also gravely concerned with the rise of teen marijuana use, the decreased perception of risk of smoking marijuana, and the increasing use of electronic smoking devices by teens (for both nicotine and marijuana), establishing smoke-free dining patios in Oceanside will reduce opportunities to smoke in public, and prevent exposure to second-hand smoke.

We thank you for considering reevaluating the issue of smoke-free outdoor dining for the City Oceanside at your February 18 city council meeting.

Respectfully,

Craig Balben
President

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