

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MODIFICATIONS TO THE REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO THE PERMITTING AND OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL SMOKE SHOPS

City Council – April 15, 2025



Background

- 15 smoke shops in Redondo Beach
- Document compliance issues locally and statewide
- City Council discussion in January 2025
- Directed staff to return with a draft ordinance that would more effectively regulate
- Recommending that City Council review and provide policy direction



Draft Ordinance

- Creates a definition of Smoke Shop/Tobacco Retailer and other related definitions
- Requires a CUP for any existing or new smoke shops
- Limit to 2 per CC District, maximum 10 citywide
- 1,000 feet between businesses, 600 feet from schools
- Express prohibition on sale of illegal products



Smoke Shop Amortization

- Allows existing legal nonconforming smoke shops to continue operating
- No CUPs may be issued for smoke shop at a new location until the City is below the cap (no new smoke shops may open)
- Existing legal nonconforming smoke shops must obtain a CUP within 5 years from the effective date of ordinance
- Upon change of business ownership a new tobacco retail permit shall not be issued unless below the cap

Smoke Shop Enforcement

- Subject to unannounced inspections
- Subject to criminal penalties in Title 1, Chapter 2
- May be guilty of offense each day for continued violation
- Revocation of CUP and/or business license



Blue Folder Modifications

- c(3)(b). A maximum of 10 smoke shops are permitted city-wide and no Conditional Use Permits shall be processed unless the City below this numerical cap, for a ~~smoke shop~~ with the exception of legal nonconforming smoke shops operating at locations prior to the effective date of this ordinance and seeking to come into compliance. ~~unless the City below this numerical cap.~~

Blue Folder Modifications

- (f) Smoke shops and tobacco stores that are legally existing on the effective date of the ordinance may continue to operate as legal nonconforming uses in accordance with Section 10-2.2002 and shall be required to obtain a Conditional Use Permit within a period of five (5) years from the effective date of this ordinance. A maximum of 10 Conditional Use Permits shall be granted in accordance with the location and concentration provisions.

Blue Folder Modifications

- C(3)(d) No retailer shall be established or located within 150 feet of Dale Page Park, measured from the nearest property lines of each of the affected parcels.

Urgency Ordinance

- Urgency Ordinance placing a moratorium on new smoke shops
- Pursuant to Government Code Section 65858, the City may adopt an Urgency Ordinance when deemed necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare.
- Requires a four-fifths vote of the City Council and would go into effect immediately

Recommended Action

1. PROVIDE POLICY DIRECTION ON DRAFT ORDINANCE;
AND
2. DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE AN URGENCY
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE
APPROVAL OF NEW COMMERCIAL SMOKE SHOPS IN
THE CITY AND TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR
MAY 6, 2025 TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE
URGENCY ORDINANCE