



**GUAM HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY
(GHURA)**

For Immediate Release

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**SMOKE-FREE POLICY
EFFECTIVE JULY 30, 2018 IN ALL GHURA PUBLIC HOUSING AND MAIN OFFICE**

Sinajaña, GU (July 27, 2018) – **GHURA Board of Commissioners approves a new Smoke-Free Policy effective MONDAY, July 30, 2018 at all GHURA Public Housing Sites and its Main Office in Sinajaña.**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (HUD) has published a final rule that requires all Public Housing Agencies (PHA) to implement and enforce a smoke-free policy by July 30, 2018. The rule specifically requires each PHA to implement a policy on prohibited tobacco products and all smoking in any interior common areas, including but not limited to community rooms, offices and within all living units in public housing and PHA administration office buildings, maintenance shops and vehicles.

To comply with the HUD mandated regulation GHURA will implement the Smoke-Free Policy effective Monday, July 30, 2018 at all of its GHURA public housing properties. The new policy prohibits the use of all lit tobacco products, e-cigarettes, water pipes, and vapes inside all public housing living units, common areas and GHURA administrative office buildings. The smoke-free policy must also extend to 25 feet from all housing and administrative buildings.

The implementation of the Policy will improve the interior air quality in housing, benefit the health of public housing tenants and public housing staff, reduce the risk of catastrophic fires, and lower overall maintenance cost. This Policy applies to all tenants, tenant's families, tenant's guests, visitors, contractors, service personnel and employees.

In preparation of this change, GHURA hosted numerous town hall meetings since October 2017 to provide and share with the GHURA residents the policy change and to hear and address their concerns and opinions.

For more information about GHURA, visit www.ghura.org.

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