



GUAM HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Pedro Leon Guerrero, GHURA Deputy Director
Telephone: 671.477.9851
Email: pleonguerrero@ghura.org

PRESS RELEASE

Guam to Implement Smoke-Free Policies in Public Housing

Sinajaña, GU (November 16, 2017) – The Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA) announces a new policy regulating the use of tobacco products for all 750 dwelling units in the public housing program. The use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, water pipes, and vapes will be prohibited inside all dwelling units, exterior areas, and GHURA administrative office buildings. The policy will also extend to 25 feet from all housing and administrative buildings. This policy takes effect in July 2018.

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) finalized a rule on December 5, 2016 that requires all public housing agencies to implement a smoke-free policy by July 30, 2018. GHURA has since been hosting a series of resident town hall meetings to give tenants advance notice on the policy, to share information, and hear concerns and opinions. The meetings have also included representatives from the Department of Public Health and Social Services who have provided resources for support services and smoking cessation programs. All adult public housing residents will be required to sign a lease addendum outlining the new policy prior to the effective date of implementation. The town hall meetings are scheduled to continue through March 2018. Future meeting dates will be posted online at www.ghura.org.

HUD's move to adopt a smoke-free policy comes after years of studies have demonstrated that no level of second-hand smoke is safe. Additionally, HUD points to data that shows smoke-free policies are fiscally sound. Significant cost savings can be gained from lower maintenance and renovation costs of housing units, fewer smoking-related home fires, and reduced insurance costs.

###



GHURA

Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority
Aturidat Ginima' Yan Rinueban Siudat Guahan
117 Bien Venida Avenue, Sinajana, GU 96910
Phone: (671) 477-9851 · Fax: (671) 300-7565 · TTY: (671) 472-3701
Website: www.ghura.org



Below is a list of meeting dates and times:

Saturday, Oct 28	Yona Site Base	10:00 a.m; 12 p.m.; 2:00 p.m.; & 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 4	Agat Youth Center	10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov 6	Merizo Elderly	6:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov 13	Upper Agat Elderly	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov 14	Lower Agat Elderly	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov 15	AMP 1 Office	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov 15	Dededo, GH35	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Nov 16	Asan Community Center	10:30 a.m.
Thursday, Nov 16	Dededo, GH48	6:00 p.m.
Friday, Nov 18	Sinajana Mayor's Office	10:30 a.m.
Saturday, Nov 18	Dededo, GH82	9:00 a.m.
Saturday, Nov 18	Agana Heights Community Center	10:30 a.m.
Saturday, Nov 18	AMP 1 Office	3:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov 20	Toto Gardens	6:00 p.m.

Additional meeting dates for 2018 will be posted soon