

Northwell Health Helps Extinguish Cigarettes at North Shore Towers and 10,000 Apartments throughout New York City

Cigarettes have been extinguished forever at North Shore Towers thanks to the collaborative efforts of Northwell Health, NYC Smoke Free, the New York City Department of Health, Queens Tobacco Control Coalition, community advocates, and the cooperative's residents and board of directors. The initiative helps NQP's efforts to meet DSRIP project 4.b.i, Promote Tobacco Cessation, objectives.

For their role, Northwell Health was invited to present to shareholders the benefits of living in a smoke free environment including health, monetary, and legal benefits. Additionally, the cooperative's property manager presented the difficulties of containing cigarette smoke to a smoker's apartment, and a lawyer representing the development presented the legal implications to the coop that can arise as a result of allowing smoking.

The smoke-free resolution needed to be approved by two-thirds of co-op's owners to amend the existing lease, something residents did with 72 percent of the vote. The new bylaws went into effect on January 1, 2017, making North Shore Towers the largest cooperative in New York State to go smoke-free.

"By establishing a smoke-free environment, North Shore Towers' residents have created one of the healthiest places to live in Queens," said Nancy Copperman, MS, RD, CDN, assistant vice president of public health and community partnerships at Northwell Health. "Their partnership in promoting health and wellness supports Northwell Health's population health initiatives."

"North Shore Towers' historic vote to go entirely smoke-free effective January 1, 2017 ensures that its vibrant community of seniors, families and children will be protected from tobacco pollution in their homes" said Joel M. Bhuiyan, Queens Community Engagement Coordinator at NYC Smoke-Free. "We were thrilled to be help educate their residents on the dangers of secondhand smoke and the advantages of adopting a smoke-free policy, which in the end garnered overwhelming support."

The North Shore Towers smoke-free initiative was not the first time that Northwell Health, NYC Smoke Free, the New York City Department of Health, and the Queens Tobacco Control Coalition, have collaborated with each other and community advocates. The group is responsible for 10,000 smoke-free New York City apartments, and helped three buildings in the Hilltop Village coop in Hollis, Queens, go smoke-free; 619 new rental apartments in Hunter's Point South in Long Island City be smoke-free; and a new HANAC (Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee)-owned new mixed use, 68-unit, affordable housing for seniors complex that is also home to a 5,000 sq ft early childhood center, be smoke-free.

The partnership has also presented the benefits of smoke-free housing to all 14 Queens community boards, resulting in 13 of the 14 boards passing multi-unit smoke-free housing policies.

To request assistance in creating smoke-free housing, send an email to info@nq-pps.org.

For more information regarding North Shore Towers going smoke-free, click the below links:

http://www.timesledger.com/stories/2016/53/northshore_2016_12_30_q.html

<http://qns.com/story/2016/12/21/north-shore-towers-bans-smoking-grounds-becoming-largest-co-op/>

<https://www.habitatmag.com/Publication-Content/Building-Operations/2017/2017-January/Smoke-Free>

http://www.qchron.com/editions/north/smoking-banned-at-north-shore-towers/article_bde72ee5-4dd7-597c-8885-5c446c9237f4.html