



Office of the Mayor-President

City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge

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SHARON WESTON BROOME
Mayor-President

May 16, 2018

Dear East Baton Rouge Parish Business Owners,

The new smoke-free ordinance goes into effect at midnight on **Friday, June 1, 2018**. In addition to smoking restrictions that already exist under state law, there will be new restrictions on smoking and vaping (use of electronic smoking devices) in many locations across the city. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. It causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases (such as emphysema), and diabetes. We want to work with you to ensure a successful launch of this major public health initiative that will improve health outcomes in our community for years to come.

Education

As outlined in the ordinance, the first step in implementation is education. Therefore, will be launching a website to educate the public on the smoke-free ordinance: **www.brla.gov/smokefree**. The website will host information on the ordinance, resources to help quit smoking, and other educational materials.

Toolkit for Business Owners

We are also developing a free toolkit for business owners. The toolkit will assist business owners in understanding and complying with the ordinance, as well as educating employees and patrons about the new requirements outlined in the ordinance. It will include a factsheet and description of the ordinance, signage to be posted in businesses, educational materials, and resources for quitting smoking. Toolkits will be developed and distributed over the next couple of months. Visit **www.brla.gov/smokefree** to download and print a toolkit.

Going forward, we welcome your input on this key public health issue. For more information call 311 or visit **www.brla.gov/smokefree**. To report a violation dial **225.389.2000**.

Sincerely,

Sharon Weston Broome
Mayor-President

