



Mike Arie | Oct. 29, 2015

## **No butts about it**

Put out your smokes, put up your vapors and spit out your smokeless tobacco, the city of Pauls Valley is now tobacco free.

In a move to become more health conscious, the Pauls Valley City Council voted unanimously to ban all smoking, tobacco and vapor products on and in municipal property.

Municipal property includes all buildings, outdoor areas (including recreational areas), equipment, vehicles and other property or portions thereof, owned or operated by the city.

“We are adding language to strengthen a law already in place,” City Manager James Frizell said. “It will include e-cigarettes (vapor products), smokeless tobacco, and smoking on city property and in city vehicles.

“It starts with our employees. We are going to have to practice what we preach and the employees will have to adhere to the new policy.”

Smoking refers to the carrying by a person of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other lighted smoking device.

A tobacco product does not include any products approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product.

It does mean any product that contains tobacco and is intended for human consumption.

Vapor product means any noncombustible product, that may or may not contain nicotine, that employs any mechanical heating element, battery, electronic circuit or other mechanism, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce vapor in a solution or other form.

Vapor product shall include any vapor cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or similar produce or device and any vapor cartridge or other container of a solution, that may or may not contain nicotine, that is intended to be used with or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo or electronic device.

“We have been working with the Certified Healthy and the Allies for Better Living on this,” Frizell said. “We are striving to make a better/healthier community.”

The city of Pauls Valley has been certified healthy as a business the past two years but with this move the city hopes to have a certified healthy status for the community.

Once they are a Certified Healthy Community that opens the door to be eligible for different grants to help with health in the community.

One problem will be how to enforce this in public areas like Wacker Park, the gold course or the Indian Meridian Sports Complex.

“We are not to be the military police handing out tickets right and left,” Frizell said. “We are going to ease into it, but we want to get a point where city property is a smoke free zone.”

Violators will be subject to a \$50 fine for their first offense within a one year period. A second offense within a year will cost a violator \$100 and each additional offense after that will cost \$200 each time, all within a year.

The policy take affect right away. Frizell said that as soon as signs could be made they would start putting them up and he hoped everything would be in place by the first of the year.