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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MICHIGAN'S NEW SMOKE-FREE LAW: HOW IT EFFECTS HOUSING COMMISSIONS, OTHER HUD-SUBSIDIZED HOUSING, APARTMENTS AND CONDOMINIUMS

Kingsford and Iron River, MI, June 28, 2010 - On May 1, 2010, Michigan's new smoke-free law went into effect. The law covers almost every workplace and any food service establishment. The law covers public places, including, but not limited to, restaurants, bars, shopping malls, bowling alleys, concert halls, arenas, museums, factories, mechanic shops, health facilities, nursing homes, education facilities, bingo halls, hotel/motel guest rooms, and child care centers. Exempted from the law are gaming floors where food and drink are not served in Detroit's three casinos, tobacco specialty retail stores, and cigar bars.

How are multi-unit apartment and condo buildings, including housing commissions and other HUD-subsidized multi-unit dwellings, affected by the smoke-free law?

All indoor common areas of housing commissions and apartment and condominium buildings must be smoke-free as of May 1, 2010. This includes hallways, laundry rooms, offices, indoor recreation/common areas, etc. Living units of these buildings are not covered by the law. However, owners of apartment and condominium buildings and boards of housing commissions are free to adopt smoke-free policies for their buildings which make the entire building smoke-free, including all living units.

For those housing commissions and apartment owners who have been considering adopting a smoke-free policy, right now is an ideal time to announce that you are going to go smoke-free as of a certain date that you can decide upon. Smoke-free policies save you money, especially when rehabbing units that have had smokers. Since 80% of Michigan adults don't smoke, and over 85% of Michigan residents report that they have their own no-smoking policy in their residence, you know you'll have happier tenants. And, everyone is healthier when secondhand smoke is gone.

For free information on how to go smoke-free, please contact Kelly Rumpf, Health Educator at 779-7234 or go to www.mismokefreepartment.org or call the Smoke-Free Environments Law Project in Ann Arbor at (734) 665-1126.

To learn more about the new state law and how it may affect your apartment complex, go to www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw.

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