



DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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News Release

Coalition Recognizes Apartment Community For Smoke-free Living

(Farmington, Utah) – The Coalition for Tobacco-Free Utah (CTFU) recognized a local property management company for promoting healthy air and smoke-free apartments for their tenants. The smoke-free CTFU award was presented to IDG/HORIZON during the Davis County Board of Health’s quarterly meeting on May 12, 2009.

Gloria Yugel, CTFU member and a health educator for the Davis County Health Department, said, “It’s important to recognize individuals and organizations that go above and beyond what is required by the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act. They’re going the extra mile to better protect and preserve public health.”

IDG/HORIZON implemented a smoke-free policy before recently opening their new Bountiful apartment community – The Village on Main Street. “In addition to the community’s smoke-free grounds, 192 smoke-free units give tenants a healthy environment, free of drifting secondhand smoke,” said Yugel.

“When we planned our new mixed-use commercial and residential community in Bountiful, we took a few risks,” said Larry Kocherhans, President of IDG and part owner of the new development. “One risk was to require a smoke-free environment for all residents.”

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“With nearly 700 prospective residents, we were solidly confident that the great preponderance of our residents would strongly desire a smoke-free environment – especially in an apartment community where the rank odor of tobacco smoke can drift into others’ apartments or into the common areas shared by all,” he said. “We have a smoke-free environment and we are all the better for it.”

Lewis Garrett, director of the county’s health department, is pleased that CTFU partnered with the Davis County Board of Health to highlight a private company’s forward-thinking efforts to promote public health. “Our Board of Health adopted the first county-wide ban on smoking in public places within Utah. It’s great to see that private businesses and a vast majority of our citizens are beginning to take these efforts even further.”

According Yugel, smoke-free housing is becoming a trend across the United States. Owners are finding the benefits far outweigh the costs of implementing a smoke-free policy. Smoking in apartments is associated with high maintenance costs, including cigarette burn marks, smoke-stained walls, and carpets that reek of tobacco smoke, as well as the dangers of cigarette-caused fires.

Yugel said, “Now that only about 9.5% of Utah adults smoke, the market for smoke-free apartments is enormous.”

A list of smoke-free housing complexes can be found on the Utah Smoke-free Apartment and Condominium Statewide Directory at <http://www.tobaccofreeutah.org/aptcondoguide-dir.htm>.

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The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Utah (CTFU) is a collection of concerned citizens, businesses, non-profit organizations, agencies, and health care professionals who are working to improve the health and quality of life for all Utahns by reducing the health risks associated with tobacco use and exposure.