**ROME SMOKEFREE AIR ORDINANCE OF 2018**

**A CITIZEN’S GUIDE**

**BREATHEASY ROME**

**Effective January 1, 2019**

**Rome Code of Ordinances, Sec 14. 61**

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**Should signs be posted?**

All businesses and public places are required to clearly post a minimum of one “No Smoking” sign, which can be the international symbol.

**Where can I report a violation?**

You may report violations of the Rome Smokefree Air Ordinance by notifying the business owner, the City Manager’s Office or the Rome City Police.

**What are the penalties?**

A person who smokes/vapes in an area where smoking is prohibited can be fined $50 - $250. A business that permits smoking can be fined $100 – $500. The City may also suspend or revoke permits or licenses issued to the business that are habitual violators of the ordinance.

**Where can I get information on how to quit smoking?**

The Georgia Tobacco Quit Line provides free counseling, support and referral services for tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Quit Line services are available free of charge for Georgia residents ages 13 and over who want to quit. Call 1-877-270-STOP (7867) or visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/ready-quit>.

**How can I get more information about the Rome Smoke-free Ordinance of 2018?**

Visit Rome City website………………

**What is the Rome Smokefree Air Ordinance of 2018?**

In August, 2018, the Rome Mayor and Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to pass an ordinance to eliminate smoking and vaping in all workplaces. Effective January 1, 2019, the new law expands the Georgia Smokefree Air Act to prohibit smoking in all public places and workplaces in the City of Rome.

**How is this law helpful to me?**

This law reduces your exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor and its associated risks. Tobacco use, particularly smoking , is the leading cause of death in the United States. Eliminating smoking in public will reduce the number of tobacco-related illnesses and deaths, which number more than 11,000 each year in Georgia Alone. This law provides cleaner and safer environments for us to live, work and play.

**What is secondhand smoke?**

Secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke/vapor exhaled from the lungs of smokers and the smoke is given off by the burning end of a cigarette, cigar, pipe or vaping device. This mixture contains more than 40,000 substances, more than 40 of which are known to cause cancer in humans and animals.

Exposure to secondhand smoke/vapor can contribute to or cause severe health problems in both smokers and non-smokers, including cancer, emphysema, heart disease, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and asthma. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of secondhand smoke. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. The goal of Rome’s Smokefree Air Act is to protect workers and the public from involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor.

**Where is smoking NOT allowed?**

* Aquariums, galleries, libraries, and museums.
* Areas available to the general public in businesses and non-profit entities patronized by the public, including but not limited to, banks, laundromats, professional offices, and retail service establishments.
* Bars.
* Bingo facilities.
* Child care and adult day care facilities.
* Convention facilities.
* Educational facilities, both public and private.
* Elevators.
* Gambling facilities.
* Health care facilities.
* Hotels and motels, *except* that no more than 20% may be designated as rented smoking rooms
* Lobbies, hallways, and other common areas in apartment buildings, condominiums, trailer parks, retirement facilities, nursing homes, and other multiple-unit residential facilities.
* Parking structures.
* Polling places.
* Public transportation vehicles, including buses and taxicabs, under the authority of the City of Rome and public transportation facilities, including bus, train, and airport facilities.
* Restaurants.
* Restrooms, lobbies, reception areas, hallways, and other common-use areas.
* Retail stores.
* Rooms, chambers, places of meeting or public assembly, including school buildings, under the control of an agency, board, commission, committee or council of the City of Rome or a political subdivision of the State, to the extent the place is subject to the jurisdiction of the City of Rome.
* Service lines.
* Shopping malls.
* Sports arenas, including enclosed places in outdoor arenas.
* Theaters and other facilities primarily used for exhibiting motion pictures, stage dramas, lectures, musical recitals, or other similar performances.

*If a business has employees and/or allows the public inside the business, then it must be smokefree.*

**Where is smoking prohibited outdoors?**

In and within 25 feet of:

* The Downtown Business District bordered by the Oostanaula River, Turner McCall Boulevard., Third Street, First Avenue and the South Broad Bridge.
* Within a distance of 25 feet outside entrances, operable windows, and ventilation systems of enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited, so as to prevent tobacco smoke from entering those areas.
* On all outdoor property that is adjacent to buildings owned, leased, or operated by the City of Rome and that is under the control of the City of Rome.
* In, and within 25 feet of, outdoor seating or serving areas of restaurants, bars, and gambling facilities.
* In outdoor shopping malls, including parking structures.
* In all outdoor arenas, stadiums, and amphitheaters. Smoking shall also be prohibited in, and within 25 feet of, bleachers and grandstands for use by spectators at sporting and other public events.
* In outdoor recreational areas, including parking lots.
* In, and within 25 feet of, all outdoor playgrounds.
* In, and within 25 feet of, all outdoor public events.
* In, and within 25 feet of, all outdoor public transportation stations, platforms, and shelters under the authority of the City of Rome.
* In all outdoor service lines, including lines in which service is obtained by persons in vehicles, such as service that is provided by bank tellers, parking lot attendants, and toll takers. In lines in which service is obtained by persons in vehicles, smoking is prohibited by both pedestrians and persons in vehicles, but only within 25 feet of the point of service.
* In outdoor common areas of apartment buildings, condominiums, trailer parks, retirement facilities, nursing homes, and other multiple-unit residential facilities, except in designated smoking areas, not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total outdoor common area, which must be located at least 25 feet from outside entrances, operable windows, and ventilation systems of enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited.

**Are there any exceptions?**

* + Private residences, unless used as a childcare, adult day care, or health care facility.
  + Existing retail tobacco stores, provided that secondhand smoke from such stores does not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of this article, and within 25 feet of the entrances to said establishment.
  + Existing retail vaping stores, provided that secondhand vapor from such stores does not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of this article, and within 25 feet of the entrances to said establishment

**What about other types of smoking?**

Cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, and hookah pipes have the same restrictions as cigarettes under this ordinance.