Residents mixed on proposed smoking ban in public housing

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The federal government's proposal Thursday to ban smoking inside and out of public housing nationwide got a decidedly mixed reaction from the people most affected.

suffer Some who from secondhand smoke were thrilled, others, including some non-smokers, worried that it gives the government yet another reason to harass or even evict poor people for doing what would otherwise be a legal activity in the privacy of their own homes.

"I think it is completely bogus," said Devante Barrett, a 24-year-old non-smoker who lives in the Elliot-Chelsea Houses in Manhattan's gritty Chelsea neighborhood. "You might as well have us all chained up in bondage now.

Smoking is already banned in about 20 percent of the nation's federally subsidized housing. The Department of Housing and Urban Development wants to extend that to the other 940,000 units around the country, in cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Miami.

'I would not like that. And other residents wouldn't like that either. But I would have to comply with it," said chain-smoker Dana Jones, shaking her head as she escorted her 11-year-old son past a clutch of smokers outside Bethel Towers, an apartment complex next to a church in downtown Atlanta.

But her son said he tells her every day that she needs to stop, and Jones acknowledged that a federal ban would probably force her to finally abandon the habit.

HUD Secretary Julian Castro said a nationwide ban would protect more than 760,000 children and save about \$153 million a year in health care costs, repairs and preventable fires.

"Everyone — no matter where they live — deserves a chance to grow up in a healthy, smoke-free home," said the surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy. "There is no safe level of secondhand smoke."

Daniel Ramirez, a 16-year-old aspiring actor who lives in the William Mead Homes, a complex of modest, two-story, red-brick buildings on the edge of downtown Los Angeles, agreed.

"I think we all know smoking is a bad thing. I don't smoke, and I don't want people to smoke around me," he said as he stood on a common front lawn littered with cigarette butts.

His 77-year-old neighbor, Juan Manuel Cabrera, disagreed. He's been smoking for 67 years, he said, and no federal edict is going to stop him from lighting up in his own

'When I'm in my house I don't bother nobody and nobody bothers me," Cabrera said as he relaxed on his porch with his chubby brown Chihuahua, Dunko, an ashtray within arm's reach and a pack of Marlboro Lights in his pocket.

The rule would ban lit tobacco products — cigarettes, cigars or pipes — in all residences, indoor

common areas and administrative

Smoking also would be prohibited outdoors within 25 feet of buildings. Electronic cigarettes that emit vapor but not smoke would not be subject to the ban.

The public now has 60 days to comment, and the ban would take effect 18 months after the rule is finalized.

'The clock starts today," said Ed Cabrera, a HUD spokesman in San Francisco. He said residents will be asked for their input as officials figure out how to enforce the rule, looking to see what's worked in the 60 percent of public housing in California where smoking is already banned.

The policy will probably become part of each lease agreement, and enforcement will depend largely on complaints by other residents, Cabrera said.

"Tenants who don't comply and continue to smoke could face possible eviction," Cabrera said. "One thing that we've stressed is that we're not targeting residents as a way to get them to quit smoking. We just want to make our properties smoke-free so they're safer for everyone.

It's all too much for Luis Torres, 64, who said he's lived in New York public housing for 44 years. He's been ticketed for smoking in the hallway, which is already illegal, and said he doesn't smoke in his apartment because his son has asthma. He's particularly upset that the ban would apply inside people's

"That's private. You can do everything you want in your apartment. Not what the government say," Torres said. "If you get sex with your wife, they're going to check your sex too? No way.'

HUD began encouraging public housing agencies to adopt smokefree policies in 2009.

Currently, more than 228,000 public housing units are smokefree, in cities including Boston, Seattle, Minneapolis, San Antonio and Detroit.

Television > Today's highlights



Mark-Paul Gosselaar and Vanessa Lachey star in "Truth Be Told"

Reign

Now that Francis (Toby Regbo) has been revived, a grateful Mary (Adelaide Kane) considers signing away her claim to the English throne so she can stay in France forever in this new episode. Nostradamus (Rossif Sutherland) has a new vision about Francis.

MasterChef Junior KFFX KPTV 8:00 p.m.

Season 2 winner Logan offers some advice to the competitors in this new episode. The top contestants from the previous elimination challenge compete in a cupcake-frosting contest. In the final challenge, the cooks will have to prepare a scallop dish.

Truth Be Told

25 KNDU KGW 8:30 p.m. Two couples aren't afraid to tackle life's big questions in this new comedy starring Mark-Paul Gosselaar as an ethics professor and husband to lawver Tracy (Vanessa Lachey). They live next door to

best friends Russell (Tone Bell) and Angie (Bresha Webb). **25 KNDU KGW** 9:00 p.m. Soon after a band of orphaned children set their sights on Rosalee

(Bree Turner), she goes missing. In this new episode, an angry Monroe (Silas Weir Mitchell) joins Nick (David Giuntoli) and Hank (Russell

Hornsby) as they search for her.

Shark Tank 42 KVEW KATU 9:00 p.m.

Brave entrepreneurs test the waters with the Sharks as they present their ideas for products and services in this new episode. A panel of self-made millionaires and billionaires entertain pitches from people hoping they'll invest in their businesses.

Restoration Wild

ANPL 9:00 p.m.

Cameras follow Jay as he makes his way to Aw Shucks Farm in Monroe, North Carolina, in this new episode. There, he'll try to breathe new life into an 1880's era train car. The car will have to serve as an educational space by day and a bar at night.

Blue Bloods

19 KEPR KOIN 10:00 p.m.

The Reagan family strives to keep New York City safe for residents of the Big Apple in this drama. TV legend Tom Selleck stars as Frank Reagan, the city's police commissioner and head of the Reagan brood. Donnie Wahlberg and Will Estes also star.

Talk shows

7:00 a.m. 19 KEPR KOIN CBS This

25 KNDU KGW Today Show Diane Keaton, Olivia Wilde, Amanda Seyfried & Alan Arkin on 'Love the Coopers. 42 KVEW KATU Good Morning **America**

WPIX Maury 7:30 a.m. LIFE The Balancing Act Cancer treatment that gives you purpose after diagnosis; life with Hereditary Tyrosinemia

8:00 a.m. WPIX The Jerry Springer Show Ty says his fantasy has quickly turned into a nightmare that he can't wake up f<u>rom</u>

9:00 a.m. 19 KEPR The Meredith 25 KNDU KGW Today Show II Pop fix.
42 KVEW Live! With Kelly and Michael Guests include John Stamos

and A Great Big World. **ALN** The Balancing Act **WPIX** Ice and Coco 10:00 a.m. **25 KNDU KGW** Today Show III Patricia Arquette on 'CSI:

KVEW KATU The View HALL Home and Family WPIX The Bill Cunningham Show Celebrity look-a-likes are confronted by the loved ones who are sick of them. 11:00 a.m. **25** KNDU The Wendy

Williams Show KGW The Dr. Oz Show KATU Live! With Kelly and Michael Guests include John Stamos and A

Great Big World.
Noon KPTV The Rachael Ray Show **31** KTNW Charlie Rose KVEW KATU The Chew **HALL** Home and Family WPIX The Steve Wilkos Show Damien took his computer in for a simple repair, was arrested and charged.

1:00 p.m. KPTV The Wendy Williams

19 KEPR KOIN The Talk 59 OPB Charlie Rose WPIX The Steve Wilkos Show 2:00 p.m. KPTV The Real KOIN 42 KVEW The Doctors **KGW FABLife** Supermodel Cindy Crawford shares some of her favorite anti-aging secrets. 3:00 p.m. 19 KEPR KOIN Dr. Phil

KGW The Ellen DeGeneres Show Guests include Justin Bieber and Diane 42 KVEW The Rachael Ray Show

KATU Steve Harvey 4:00 p.m. 25 KNDU The Ellen **DeGeneres Show** Guests include Justin Bieber and Diane Keaton. **42 KVEW FABLife** Supermodel Cindy Crawford shares some of her favorite anti-aging secrets.
5:30 p.m. HBO2 Last Week Tonight

With John Oliver 8:30 p.m. **31** KTNW Charlie Rose: The Week 10:00 p.m. HBO Real Time With Bill

Maher 11:00 p.m. **HBO** Real Time With Bill 11:05 p.m. 42 KVEW Jimmy Kimmel

11:35 p.m. 19 KEPR KOIN The Late Show With Stephen Colbert **25) KNDU KGW** The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Midnight KATU Jimmy Kimmel Live 12:30 a.m. 31 KTNW Tavis Smiley 12:35 a.m. 25 KNDU KGW Late Night

With Seth Meyers

19 KEPR KOIN The Late Late Show With James Corden 1:30 a.m. (31) KTNW Charlie Rose:

The Week Pendleton East-Oregonian, OR: Talk Shows Nov

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HBO3

MAX

SHOW

STARZ

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:25 ♥ ★ Exodus: Gods and Kings ('14, Dra) Christian Bale. ♥ ★★★ Unbroken ('14, Bio) Jack O'Connell.

The Affair

621 ♥ ★★★ Maleficent ♥ ★★ Twister ('96, Act) Bill Paxton, Helen Hunt. ♥ Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2

:20 ♥ ★★ Tammy ('14, Com) Melissa McCarthy. The Knick (N)

What If ('13, Rel) Kevin Sorbo.

The Knick

:40 Ash/Evil :15 . The Wedding

Pete Correale