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## **NEWS BRIEFS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **City of Fremont Secures \$100,843 from the California Department of Justice to Combat Illegal Tobacco Use among Minors in Fremont, California**

The City of Fremont received \$100,843 in state funding to tackle the illegal sale of cigarettes and tobacco products to minors as part of the California Department of Justice's Tobacco Grant Program. The grants were awarded to 76 local entities throughout the state to support the enforcement of state and local laws related to the illegal sales and marketing of tobacco products to minors. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced the recipients on October 1, 2019. With the support of the Attorney General's office, the City of Fremont is prepared to educate and engage the families and youth of Fremont, to understand the dangers of tobacco and nicotine products and make healthy decisions.

"Tobacco is a serious threat to public health, especially to California's youth," said Attorney General Becerra. "These grants will support local communities in enforcing the law and educating kids about the harms of tobacco products. My office is dedicated to ensuring the state has the resources necessary to curb the dangers of tobacco and protect the public's well-being. Preventing or reducing illegal sales of tobacco to minors will pave the way to a healthier California—we're committed to tackling this public health crisis head on."

The City of Fremont will use the funding to implement and enforce a Tobacco Retail License (TRL) program, and augment student and parent education and engagement efforts already underway through the partnership between Youth and Family Services and the Fremont Police Department. In addition to supporting enforcement efforts as the new TRL program takes shape, the City is planning to hire a Tobacco Program Youth Specialist to increase education efforts in the school district, and fund more parent education workshops presented by the sergeant who oversees the school resource officers.

The Department of Justice's Tobacco Grant Program is funded by Proposition 56 (commonly known as Prop. 56), the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016. Beginning April 2017, Prop. 56 raised the cigarette tax by \$2 per pack, with an equivalent increase on all other tobacco products. Prop. 56 also allocates millions of dollars annually to the California

Department of Justice for distribution to local law enforcement agencies for the support and hiring of peace officers for various activities. These activities include investigations and compliance checks to reduce the illegal sale of tobacco products to minors.

### **Warm Springs BART West Access Bridge and Plaza Project**

The Warm Springs BART West Access Bridge and Plaza Project reached a significant milestone in late September. The truss span of the bridge, connecting directly to the Warm Springs/South Fremont BART Station, and over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks, was installed. The pylon for the cable stay span of the bridge has also been installed along with a portion of the cable stay bridge deck over the UPRR spur line. Both installations are now visible from surrounding streets.

This milestone was achieved after comprehensive and complex coordination efforts between the City of Fremont, BART, and UPRR, with special attention to safety, protection of the existing BART facilities and patrons, and protection of UPRR facilities and trains. Ultimately, the bridge will provide a pedestrian/bicycle connection between the BART station and the new residences, as well as major employers in the area. Construction activities for the elevator, escalator, and staircase, as well as the overall plaza, will intensify in the next couple of months.



### **Education Workshop about Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program**

The City of Fremont is hosting a free education workshop on the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program on Wednesday, October 30 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library, located at 2400 Stevenson Blvd., in Fukaya A Room.

The Housing Authority of the County of Alameda will provide an overview of the program and answer questions to help rental



housing owners comply with the City's new Source of Income Discrimination Ordinance. This workshop is open to all, although the presentation will be tailored for rental housing providers.

To RSVP visit [www.Fremont.gov/Sec8Workshop](http://www.Fremont.gov/Sec8Workshop), email [RentReview@Fremont.gov](mailto:RentReview@Fremont.gov), or call 510-733-4945.

### **Workforce Training Guide Available Online**

The Tri-City Workforce Training Resource is an informational website for adults who need to obtain their GED, as well as those beginning or already established in their career. Visit [www.Fremont.gov/WorkforceTraining](http://www.Fremont.gov/WorkforceTraining) to explore the many options for short-term, low-cost educational and training opportunities located right here in the Tri-City Area.



Since Post-Secondary Education is not just a four-year degree, a variety of training opportunities for adults at different points in their careers are included. The site provides information on GED, English as a Second Language, and Basic Skills classes available through local Adult Schools. Entry-level trainings with opportunities for career growth are available at Fremont Adult School for Medical Assistants, Mission Valley ROP for Pharmacy Technician training, or participate in the Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Program through Cypress Mandela, to name just a few. Adults with advanced degrees and professional experience can increase their skills with Cal State East Bay's Certificate and Continuing Education program. The new workforce training site also includes information on ways to pay for classes, starting a small business, growth industries, and labor market information.

The Tri-City Workforce Training Resource is a product of the Southern Alameda County Workforce Development Project, a research project for the City of Fremont Human Services Department, the Fremont Family Resource Center, and the SparkPoint Fremont program. The data from this project suggest more can be done to increase awareness and access to local training and educational opportunities in our community. To address the data, the Tri-City Workforce Training Resource was created to connect community members to short-term training and educational opportunities leading to livable wage jobs. The Tri-City Workforce Training Resource is a navigational tool to access training and educational options in the local area, while also providing links and other resources available in the Greater Bay Area.

The Southern Alameda County Workforce Development Project is supported through the generous funding from the Y&H Soda Foundation and the Walter & Elise Haas Fund. For more information on the Southern Alameda County Workforce Development Project or the Tri-City Workforce Training Resource website, please contact Tamara Dehnert at [TDehnert@Fremont.gov](mailto:TDehnert@Fremont.gov) or at 510-574-2009.

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