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## **Springfield Housing Authority bans use of e-cigarettes at its properties**

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**SPRINGFIELD** - The **Springfield Housing Authority** announced Tuesday that it is banning the use of electronic cigarettes anywhere on housing authority property, The move by the housing authority's **Board of Commissioners** immediately bans the use of any electronic tobacco products in any apartment, common area or outside property controlled by the agency.

The housing authority already has a similar ban in place for conventional tobacco products: cigarettes, pipes, and cigars. No one has been allowed to smoke inside any housing authority building since 2012, or outside on property since 2013.

Electronic cigarettes deliver nicotine to the user but produce only vapor, and not smoke.

There is considerable debate about whether vapor from electronic cigarettes is as harmful as second-hand smoke from tobacco products, but housing authority Executive Director William H. Abrashkin said the agency prefers not to take any chances.

In studying the affects of e-cigarette use, the commission became aware of two related factors, he said.

"One was that that the environmental vapors resulting from the e-cigarettes were causing discomfort to others exposed to them. Also, the board collected info and looked at the research, which says that at a minimum, the dangers of these devices are not known, and they contain dangerous levels of toxins to which others can be exposed," he said.

The board's vote to ban their use was unanimous, he said.

The vote came just prior to an announcement from Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey that she is **seeking to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to anyone under age 18.**

The Springfield Housing Authority is the state's third largest housing authority. It operates 2,397 public housing units at 27 sites throughout the city and oversees 240 rental vouchers and 2,893 housing choice vouchers.

[http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/03/springfield\\_housing\\_authority\\_15.html](http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/03/springfield_housing_authority_15.html)