

# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO P.D.M.C. CHAPTERS 8.34 & 8.36, TOBACCO RETAILER LICENSE & SMOKING REGULATIONS

City Council Meeting  
February 26, 2026



PALM DESERT



# BACKGROUND

- December 2009- City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1200
- Current ordinance is outdated, lacks clarity for emerging electronic smoking devices and products. Growth of non-tobacco (vaping) smoking substances.
- Licensing regulations are outdated, not aligned with industry standards.
- Concerns with over-the-counter synthetic kratom products.
- Ineffective fine structure to deter violations.

# PURPOSE OF AMENDMENTS

- Modernize smoking and tobacco license regulations
- Address emerging new products and substances
- Regulate high-risk synthetic kratom products
- Clarify enforcement and increase penalties
- Protect public health
- Align with original ordinance intent

# KEY AMENDMENTS OVERVIEW

Chapter	Title	Summary of Amendment
<b>8.34</b>	Tobacco Retailer License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updated definitions and terminology</li><li>• Prohibit flavored tobacco products</li><li>• Prohibit electronic smoking device sales</li><li>• Prohibit tobacco sales at pharmacies</li><li>• Prohibit synthetic kratom products</li></ul>
<b>8.36</b>	Regulation and Prohibition of Smoking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulates smoking in public places and workplaces</li><li>• Includes distance requirements from entrances</li><li>• Updated to include electronic devices</li><li>• Define a private country club as a “public place” for purposes of smoking regulation.</li></ul>

# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS PROVIDE:

- Council direction from August 2024 and February 2025 study sessions
- Clear regulations for retailers
- Consistent and clear enforcement tools: align enforcement standards for kratom with tobacco law, to include license revocation for kratom-related violations.
- Increased penalties for operational violations
- Increase inspections and compliance monitoring
- Aligns with regional public health concerns and regulatory enforcement practices across multiple valley cities.

# QUESTIONS

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