



## **The Related Companies Go Smokeless**

By Charlie Abrahams

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In case you missed this story, the real estate firm known as the Related Companies just recently announced the launch of a portfolio-wide smoke-free initiative for all of its over 40,000 rental residences across the country.

Headquartered in New York City, the Related Companies is a developer and owner of both commercial and residential real estate across the country with an existing portfolio of real estate assets valued at over \$15 billion.



This initiative makes Related the first developer and owner to implement a national policy geared towards improving the health and quality-of-life for all of its residents living in its properties across 17 states.

This push is something that has been happening more and more within the full-service and residential buildings across the city though traditionally the move for smoke-free living has been focused more on workforce and affordable residences as was evidenced by the City of Boston's move to eliminate smoking in all public housing last year.

One of Related's properties here in Boston, the One Back Bay, has been smoke-free for years. Other developers such as the Archstone Avenir Apartments, The Kensington and The Lofts at Atlantic Wharf are on the short list of Boston's luxury apartment buildings that have made this commitment to improving health.

One luxury building that doesn't have a smoke-free policy in place in Boston is Four Seasons Place. This topic recently came up during the annual owner's meeting and was met with quite a bit of disagreement. Whether or not there are many current owners who smoke, there were many who felt that initiating this policy would be an invasion of privacy. The topic was put on hold to be discussed again at a later date. A contentious issue, this certainly is one that evokes strong feelings on both sides of the debate.

As I myself am not a smoker I am fully behind this trend and applaud The Related Companies initiative to maintaining the health and wellness of its residents. That being said, I can understand the sentiment on the other side of the debate in terms of where to draw the line of what's infringing upon one's rights.