



## Bulletin from Mayor Elaine Scruggs



It is always interesting to follow what municipal governments are doing around the country. In California, the town of Belmont recently passed an ordinance that will make it illegal for apartment dwellers to smoke in their apartments, with fines of \$1,000 for anyone who is caught doing so. Other provisions of the Belmont ordinance will include no smoking in parks, outdoor restaurants and other public places. It is surprising to see cities and towns trying to regulate the actions of their individual residents to this extent. In Arizona, it has not traditionally been considered a city's role to regulate either individual activities or private property.

A subject related to regulation of private property that often comes up is why the city of Glendale does not do more with some of our older commercial centers. Individuals have asked me why we do not go in and force businesses to paint their buildings or improve their facades in order to make a center more appealing or to attract other businesses to the center. The truth is that Arizona is a property rights state and a city does not have the right to interfere with a private business.

However, the city of Glendale does offer programs that will provide assistance to businesses if they are willing to make improvements to their property. The Visual Improvement Program (VIP) is offered through our Economic Development Department and is designed to partially reimburse property owners for making exterior improvements to their retail, commercial, or industrial property. [Click here](#) for more details about the VIP program. Beyond the VIP program, our Economic Development Department also works on locating quality businesses in locations where they will improve the surrounding area.

I would really like to hear your opinions about what you think the role of city government should be with regard to the private property and/or individuals' actions. You can respond directly to this bulletin. Additionally I encourage you to attend one of my Community Conversations in the Neighborhoods where we all engage in discussions like this. I look forward to hearing your views.

*Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or [mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com](mailto:mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com), if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.*