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November 20, 2018

Members of St. Paul City Council

City of Saint Paul

310 City Hall

15 Kellogg Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Appeal file # 18-122975 – 589 Dale Street North

Dear Honorable Council Members:

I am writing you on behalf of the American Lung Association in Minnesota urging you to deny the appeal to reject the zoning variance request to the above applicant. We agree with the recommendation from staff and also support the decision made by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) by a unanimous vote.

As the oldest voluntary health organization in Minnesota, the American Lung Association is committed to promoting lung health and preventing lung disease. We strongly support local policy changes to keep youth from the harms of tobacco.

The economic cost of tobacco in our state and across the nation is staggering, costing Minnesotans \$7.5 billion annually in excess health care costs and lost productivity. The loss of life, quality of life, health care costs cannot and should not be compared to the loss of profits for those who choose to continue to sell a product that “used as directed will kill you.”

We urge you to take this positive step toward the health of our youth and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,



Pat McKone, Senior Director

Health Promotion and Advocacy