

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
Sara Grewing, City Attorney



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

Civil Division
400 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Telephone: 651 266-8710
Facsimile: 651 298-5619

December 30, 2013

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Daniel Price, Owner
Corner Gas
304 Larpenteur Avenue East
Saint Paul, MN 55117

RE: Cigarette/Tobacco license held by Renaissance Marketing, LLC d/b/a Corner Gas for the premises located at 304 Larpenteur Avenue East in Saint Paul
License ID #20100002670

Dear Mr. Price:

The Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) has recommended adverse action against the Cigarette/Tobacco license held by Renaissance Marketing, LLC d/b/a Corner Gas for the premises located at 304 Larpenteur Avenue East in Saint Paul. The basis for the recommendation is as follows:

On December 23, 2013, a tobacco compliance re-check was conducted at Corner Gas located at 304 Larpenteur Avenue East. A fifteen year old male entered the establishment and asked to buy tobacco products. He was not asked to show his identification, which would have indicated he was underage. Nevertheless, the clerk sold him a package of Swisher Sweets cigarettes. Sale of tobacco to an underage person is a violation of Minn. Stat. § 609.685 and Saint Paul Legislative Code § 324.07(c).

This is the third (3rd) violation for the sale of cigarettes to an underage person within one (1) year; therefore, per Saint Paul Legislative Code §324.11 (b) (1) the licensing office will recommend an \$800.00 matrix penalty and a seven (7) day suspension of your Cigarette/Tobacco license.

At this time you have two (2) options on how to proceed:

1. If you wish to admit the facts but you contest the penalty, you may have a public hearing before the Saint Paul City Council. You will need to send me a letter with a statement admitting to the facts and requesting a public hearing. I will need to receive your letter no later than **Thursday, January 9, 2014**. The matter will then be scheduled before the City Council for a public hearing to determine whether to impose the \$800.00 matrix penalty and seven (7) day suspension of your Cigarette/Tobacco license. You will have an opportunity to appear before the Council and make a statement on your own behalf.

2. If you dispute the facts outlined above, you may request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). You will need to send me a letter disputing the facts and requesting an administrative hearing by **Thursday, January 9, 2014**. At that hearing both you and the City will appear and present witnesses, evidence and cross-examine each other's witnesses. After receipt of the ALJ's report (usually within 30 days), a public hearing will need to be scheduled. At that time, the City Council will decide whether to adopt, modify or reject the ALJ's report and recommendation.

Please note: If you choose an administrative hearing, the Department of Safety and Inspections reserves the Right to request that City Council impose the costs of the administrative hearing per Saint Paul Legislative Code § 310.05 (k).

If you have not contacted me by Thursday, January 9, 2014, I will assume that you are not contesting the imposition of the \$800.00 matrix penalty and seven (7) day suspension of your Cigarette/Tobacco license. In that case, the matter will be placed on the City Council Consent Agenda for approval of the recommended penalty.

Please be advised that the clerk who was identified as having made the sale on this date is also being charged a \$50.00 administrative penalty pursuant to Minn. Stat. §461.12, subd. 3. This is a separate action from this license matter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (651) 266-8710.

Sincerely,


Geoffrey Karls
Assistant City Attorney

cc: Kristina Schweinler, Senior License Inspector
Daniel Price, 1327 Hillcrest Drive NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5827
Leslie McMurray, Executive Director, Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council
506 Kenny Road, Suite 130, Saint Paul, MN 55130

STATE OF MINNESOTA))
) ss.

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL

COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

Julie Kraus, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that on the 30th day of December she served the attached **NOTICE OF VIOLATION** and correct copy thereof in an envelope addressed as follows:

Daniel Price, Owner
Corner Gas
304 Larpenteur Avenue East
Saint Paul, MN 55117

Daniel Price
1327 Hillcrest Drive NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5827

Leslie McMurray, Executive Director
Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council
506 Kenny Road, Suite 130
Saint Paul, MN 55130

(which is the last known address of said person) depositing the same, with postage prepaid, in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Julie Kraus
Julie Kraus

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 30th day of December, 2013

Karen M. Doumany
Notary Public

