



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

August 14, 2013

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Richard A. Stai, Owner
5th Street Convenience
55-5th Street East
Saint Paul, MN 55101

RE: Cigarette/Tobacco license held by Richard A. Stai d/b/a 5th Street Convenience for the premises located at 55-5th Street East in Saint Paul
License ID #20050004334

Dear Mr. Stai:

The Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) has recommended adverse action against the Cigarette/Tobacco license held by Richard A. Stai d/b/a 5th Street Convenience for the premises located at 55-5th Street East in Saint Paul. The basis for the recommendation is as follows:

On July 22, 2013, a tobacco compliance check was conducted at 5th Street Convenience located at 55-5th Street East. A sixteen year old female entered your establishment and asked to buy tobacco products. She was asked to show her identification, and did so. It correctly stated her date of birth, which indicated she was underage. Nevertheless, the clerk sold her a package of Swisher Sweets. 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 first (1st) violation for the sale of cigarettes to an underage person; therefore, per Saint Paul Legislative Code §324.11 (b) (1) the licensing office will recommend a \$200.00 matrix penalty.

At this time you have three options on how to proceed:

1. You can pay the recommended \$200.00 matrix penalty. If this is your choice, you should make payment directly to the Department of Safety and Inspections, at 375 Jackson Street, Ste. 220, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806 no later than **Monday, August 26, 2013**. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Payment of the \$200.00 matrix penalty will be considered to be a waiver of the hearing to which you are entitled.

2. 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 **Monday, August 26, 2013**. The matter will then be scheduled before the City Council for a public hearing to determine whether to impose the \$200.00 matrix penalty. You will have an opportunity to appear before the Council and make a statement on your own behalf.

3. 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 **Monday, August 26, 2013**. 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 Monday, August 26, 2013, I will assume that you are not contesting the imposition of the \$200.00 matrix penalty. In that case, the matter will be placed on the City Council Consent Agenda for approval of the recommended penalty.

Please be advised that a clerk employed at your store was identified as having made the sale on this date so he/she will be charged an additional \$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,



Daphne Lundstrom
Assistant City Attorney

cc: Christine Rozek, Deputy Director of DSI
Richard Stai, 4900 Bartlett, Mound, MN 55364
Melissa Martinez-Sones, Community Organizer, CapitolRiver Council District 17
US Bank Center, 101 East 5th Street, Suite 240, Saint Paul, MN 55101

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 14th day of August she served the attached **NOTICE OF VIOLATION** and correct copy thereof in an envelope addressed as follows:

Richard A. Stai, Owner
5th Street Convenience
55-5th Street East
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Richard Stai
4900 Bartlett
Mound, MN 55364

Melissa Martinez-Sones, Community Organizer
CapitolRiver Council District 17
US Bank Center
101 East 5th Street, Suite 240
Saint Paul, MN 55101

(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

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 14th day of August, 2013


Notary Public

