



September 14, 2017

Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to building healthier lives free from heart disease and stroke – two of the leading causes of death in the United States. Our non-profit and non-partisan organization includes more than 30 million volunteers and supporters across the country and in Minnesota. Today, one-out-of-three Americans suffer from one or more forms of cardiovascular disease (CVD). We are writing to you today on their behalf and on behalf of the millions of other constituents with, or at risk of developing CVD.

It's clear that there is an urgent need to restrict access to menthol cigarettes. It's been several years since the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee found that menthol cigarettes have an adverse impact on public health by inviting experimentation by the young, increasing the number of youth who become regular smokers, and making it harder to quit.

An independent assessment by the FDA came to same conclusion. What more evidence do we need? St. Paul has a great opportunity to reduce access to menthol cigarettes and their deadly effects.

Every day, the 1,200 Americans who die from tobacco-related diseases are replaced by two smokers under the age of 26. Menthol cigarettes are one of many products peddled to our nation's youth with the intent of addicting a new generation. Menthol cigarettes are one product that lures young people into a deadly habit and sets them on the road to early hardening of the arteries and coronary artery disease in adulthood.

The American Heart Association urges you to vote to restrict menthol in St. Paul to tobacco only retailers.

Thank you.

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*"Building healthier lives,
free of cardiovascular
diseases and stroke."*

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