

October 10, 2017

City Council
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2017

CITY CLERK

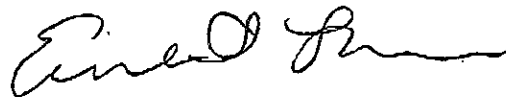
St. Paul City Council Members,

The extension on the menthol ban vote was a step in the right direction. I respect those in City Council who acknowledged that this ban has been rushed through and I am thrilled we have decided to slow it down a bit. However, the extension does no good if you have already made your mind up regarding the issue.

Lets spend these next 30 days listening to one another and allowing alternatives to be considered to the fullest extent.

Progress cannot be made when we are unwilling to accept other viewpoints and ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eirene P. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

October 9, 2017

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

Saint Paul City Council members,

I should not have to leave my neighborhood to buy a perfectly legal product. This menthol ban is singling out people unfairly. Why is it non-menthol smokers' rights are reserved to access their preferred products but mine are not?

Not everyone has the luxury of owning a car or having easy access to alternative modes of transportation and this ban will make menthol smokers travel farther to get their cigarettes while non-menthol smokers can continue to walk down the street and buy their pack.

You are targeting a specific group of people and that is not right.

Vote no on this discriminatory ban.

Sincerely,



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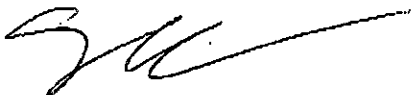
Saint Paul City Council members,

It is my personal choice to smoke or not. I choose to smoke and I believe that City Council needs to respect my decision. The menthol ban, however, is showing me that you do not respect my decisions or me.

While menthol will not be completely banned from the city, for me it might as well be. I do not have easy access to transportation to take myself across the city to one of the few tobacco shops in St. Paul. I cannot walk across the city in the middle of January without nearly freezing to death.

This ban is going to have a huge effect on those who are not lucky enough to be able to afford transportation. Please listen to our concerns with open ears before finalizing your decision on this ban.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'SM' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

October 9, 2017

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

St. Paul City Council,

I appreciate your decision to allow four more weeks before the vote on the menthol ban. This will give you the opportunity to see the ban from more perspectives. I hope you have the chance to hear opinions from all backgrounds, because this is not a simple issue.

This ban is going to hurt business owners. That is obvious. What is less obvious is that this ban will disrupt people who have less access to transportation, law enforcement, and nonsmokers who regularly go to the convenience stores. All of these groups will face changes as a result of this ban, and you must take the time to listen to these stories to see the full picture.

Thank you again for postponing the vote. I hope you will approach this vote with an open mind as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Hassan Abdullahi

October 9, 2017

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
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St. Paul City Council members,

The menthol ban will have serious implications on the St. Paul economy, so I thank you for taking the opportunity to delay the vote for four weeks. This was necessary and it is a great first step in ensuring that the best decision is made for the city.

This menthol ban is not the strongest way forward for St. Paul, as I am sure you will hear in the coming weeks. I hope that you will listen to the business owners you will be hurting. I hope that you get the chance to meet storeowners in every neighborhood and that you listen to how this story will impact the city and the people living in it.

This first step you took by delaying the public hearing, and I hope you will approach these conversations with an open mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Wain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

October 9, 2017

City Council
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Saint Paul City Council members,

I am a non-smoker and I do not support the menthol ban. Smoking is bad, everyone knows that but it is up to the individual to decide whether they smoke or not. It is not the place of the government to behave like peoples parents.

This ban is going to do more harm than good in our communities. I rely heavily on my corner markets and if the menthol ban is put in place the prices of other products are going to go up in these stores to make up for the lost revenue. I struggle to make ends meet as is and I cannot afford increased prices. I also don't have the opportunity to shop at alternative stores because transportation is an issue for me.

I hope that you are taking into consideration all the people who will be affected by this menthol ban before making your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albin".

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Saint Paul City Council members,

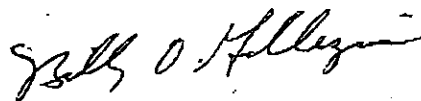
The ban on menthol is going to negatively affect my life. I do not have easy access to transportation and now, on top of having to figure out how I will get to my job every day, I am going to have to figure out how I am going to get across town to one of the limited tobacco shops in this city.

I work hard every day and as an adult, I have the right to choose if I smoke or not. After a long day, a menthol cigarette calms my nerves and I find it very upsetting the City Council is trying to take that away from me.

I do not support this ban whatsoever. How is it fair that a non-menthol smoker still has easy access to their product but I will have to struggle to get mine? You've divided us into winners and losers.

Please show me that you don't think I'm a loser and vote no to this ban.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O. Hallegren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

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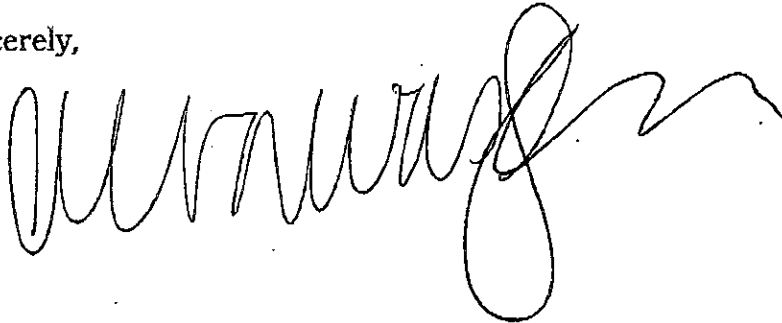
St. Paul City Council Members,

The menthol ban is going to hurt our local community in a variety of ways and I urge City Council to take these next 30 days to really think about the negative consequences a ban like this will have.

It is time to come together as a city to figure out what is the best plan of action to curb teen smoking. We need to find a solution that does not punish retailers. Retailers are not the ones giving cigarettes to teens; it's individuals in their social circles who are. Education and social engagement needs to be our focus.

I am thankful we have these next 30 days to try and come up with a solution that is good for everyone in St. Paul.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Allan..." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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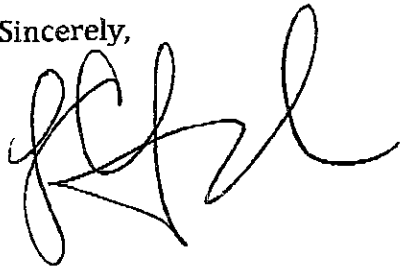
Saint Paul City Council members,

Please, City Council, do not make my life any harder than it already is. I am a hard working individual and after a long day at work, I value being able to walk down to my corner market and buy a pack of menthol cigarettes. As an adult, I am aware of the harmful effects of smoking but I have made the decision for myself to smoke, and I have the right to do so.

I do not have a car so this ban is going force me to figure out how to get across town to 1 of 12 tobacco shops to by a pack after a long day. It does not seem fair that this is going to become a part of my daily struggles while the person next to me smoking a pack of non-menthol cigarettes gets to continue on with life as usual.

City Council, please reconsider your position on this ban.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'RSL' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.