

June 26, 2014

Mezeker Mengesha
Little Grocery LLC
1724 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Elizabeth Muenich
City of Saint Paul

Dear Elizabeth Muenich:

This letter is in response to a 'Notice of Violation' complaint received from your office. At this time little grocery LLC, would like to admit to the facts in the case, but contest the penalty.

Little Grocery LLC, admits to having unknowingly purchased contraband as defined in Minn. Stat. Chapter 297F.21 Subdivision 1(a)&(i). The owners also want to add that once aware of the situation of the illegality of the products they took steps to remove the products from shelves; the items were consequently observed and seized in the back room of the store by state tobacco inspectors.

The business owners understand the seriousness of this violation and ask that the council be lenient on imposing the matrix penalty. Our business is fairly new and has yet to become profitable; we also ask that you consider that we took the steps to remove the contraband from shelves when the issue was addressed by a customer/owner of a tobacco shop. The owners understand the mistakes made in this situation and are serious about never purchasing tobacco products from untaxed, out of state or any online wholesalers from here forth.

Sincerely,

Mezeker Mengesha
Little Grocery LLC