

From: [Sylvia Amos](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Reduce the Number of Tobacco Licenses
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 6:50:47 PM

Dear Mayor Carter and Members of the St. Paul City Council,

My name is Sylvia Amos, I am a lifelong resident of the State of Minnesota, and a community advocate that works with African American Churches in Minneapolis and St. Paul. I strongly support the City Council's proposed ordinance to reduce the number of tobacco licenses in Saint Paul.

I have been working with NorthPoint and ANSR for 16 years educating our community about the harms of commercial tobacco. When more tobacco and e-cigarette retailers are located in a given area, residents' health suffers. Youth are more likely to start using tobacco. People who smoke consume more cigarettes per day and have a harder time quitting. Further, tobacco and e-cigarette retailers cluster in neighborhoods with a high percentage of low-income residents and Black and Latino residents. These communities are targeted by tobacco companies, and they disproportionately suffer the health harms caused by tobacco use.

By reducing your total number of licenses you will ensure that St. Paul's commercial tobacco retailer density cannot become more concentrated. Lower concentration corresponds with lower overall rates of use.

I support your efforts to reduce the commercial tobacco licenses in St. Paul. With these changes, St. Paul is taking steps toward a healthier community. I hope the City Council will pass this bold public health policy.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Amos
Retired CAO, Minneapolis Urban League
Retired Director of Programs, Stairstep Foundation
Community Advocate