



June 1, 2021

Council President Amy Brendmoen and members of the City Council:

The Association for Nonsmokers-MN (ANSR) is writing to oppose the rezoning of 444 W. Maryland Ave.

As public health professionals and advocates in commercial tobacco prevention and treatment, we know tobacco's harmful effects on people and communities. Today, tobacco continues to be a leading cause of premature and preventable death in Minnesota.

We are not only advocating from a tobacco prevention perspective but are supportive of the North End community's call to remove this business from their neighborhood. Community members are concerned about the lack of public safety. According to a recent Star Tribune article, drug deals, violence, and dangerous driving occur on the business's property. A few community members voiced that they feel the owner is doing little to curb these disturbances. The wellbeing of young and older residents living in this neighborhood are directly impacted if we do nothing.

As a public health organization, ANSR supports the North End community's efforts to protect their neighborhood and oppose the rezoning of 444 W. Maryland Ave.

Jeanne Weigum  
ANSR President