

WARD 2 Public Comments-ORD 21-29

From: Bob Coughlin <Bob.Coughlin@pfgc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:50 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Capter 434

Council Person Rebecca Noecker

I am writing today to ask you to **VOTE NO** on the proposed ordinance changes to Chapter 324 in St Paul. I work for a Convenience Store Distributor that services your community. There are several reasons that I feel that these changes will hurt the communities of St Paul:

- 1) It should not be the job of the Government to pick winners and losers and that is the result when you have different rules for certain license holders.
- 2) Raising prices will not reduce consumption, it will cause adult consumers to travel out side the city to purchase the items they desire.
- 3) While they travel for Tobacco they will purchase gas, milk, pop, candy and other products causing a reduction in sales tax for you city.
- 4) Convenient stores generate 37% of inside sales from tobacco. The loss of these sales will cause stores to close and employees to be laid off.
- 5) This leads to more abandoned buildings and loss of real-estate taxes for the city.
- 6) This could cause more food deserts in portions of the city that rely on Convenience stores.
- 7) It will add to increased criminal activity through Black Market sales, and those people do not check ID's for underage users.

Please vote NO on changes to Charter 324 and protect the family owned businesses that the Federal Government deemed as essential businesses during the recent pandemic crises.

Thank you
Bob

Robert P Coughlin
Government Affairs Lead
Eby-Brown
1415 W Diehl Road Suite 300N
Naperville, IL 60563
Bob.coughlin@pfgc.com
Phone 630-449-1427
Cell 630-632-2029