

the ordinance to keep them out of the reach of children and urges you to do the same.

Bob Dill – Called 9/25/17 at 11:45 am In opposition to banning menthol cigarettes. Depending on how CM Tolbert votes will determine how he votes in the next election.

From: Nadine Schaff [<mailto:nadineschaff@msn.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:48 AM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

Subject: Menthol-flavored products ordinance

My name is Nadine Engbrecht-Schaff and I live at 519 Cretin Ave. South. I am writing to support the ordinance restricting the sale of menthol-flavored products to adults-only stores. Menthol isn't some innocuous flavoring; it's added to cigarettes in order to make them easier to smoke. Almost half of all high school students who smoke, smoke menthol cigarettes. The tobacco industry has targeted young people in marketing these products because they make it easier for a new smoker to inhale and get addicted to nicotine. I know the tobacco industry is working hard in St. Paul to oppose this ordinance, which tells me it must be effective at keeping kids from smoking. I hope you'll vote for the menthol ordinance next week, for the health of St. Paul kids.

Thank you!

Nadine

From: [jaeger@aapa.com](mailto:jaeger@aapa.com) [<mailto:jaeger@aapa.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:46 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

Subject: Menthol tobacco products

Dear Council Member Tolbert,

I'm a physician, anesthesiologist, and constituent writing about the topic of menthol in tobacco products. As you are aware, there is resistance and opposition to the ordinance to restrict menthol tobacco sales to adult only stores. I strongly support this ordinance, and any anti-tobacco ordinance. Preventing young people, specifically those targeted for menthol products, from starting smoking is a simple and effective public health measure that will pay dividends into the future. The long term cost of lost productivity and health care for smokers is high, and preventable. I can tell you that providing an anesthetic for a smoker is not something I look forward to, and there is plenty of scientific literature to show that tobacco abusers have more post operative complications when compared to non-smokers. Minnesota has a tradition of enacting progressive measures that make sense for the public good and I hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

David Jaeger, M.D.

From: Nick Nadeau [<mailto:info@1stgrandaveliquors.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:29 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

Subject: 1st Grand Avenue Liquors is in support of liquor stores selling menthol cigarettes

1st Grand Avenue Liquors is in full support of liquor stores selling menthol cigarettes. We stand in solidarity with the MLBA. Please vote to let us continue selling these products, we do not let anyone under the age of 21 in our establishment. Since all customers are 21 there is no chance of selling to anyone under the age 21. Thank you for your consideration.

Nick Nadeau

G.M 1st Grand Ave Liquors



From: Tony Chesak [<mailto:tony@mlba.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:50 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

Cc: McMahon, Melanie (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Menthol Tobacco

Councilmember Tolbert,

I am writing you this to both thank you for allowing me to speak last Wednesday evening and to ask you to consider allowing the off premise liquor stores, to continue to sell Menthol Tobacco products. As you know, the City of Minneapolis had the same issue come up not so long ago. The City of Minneapolis was convinced that our off premise establishments vetted customers like no other retail outlet in Minnesota. As a result, they allowed liquor stores to continue to sell Menthol tobacco products. Liquor stores do not allow customers in their stores if they are not over the age of 21 and if they are not, they MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. This policy is strictly adhered to and not wavered from.

Please consider allowing these proud family run businesses to continue to sell these products as they have in the past. We are the most careful as it pertains to youth access.

Thank you for your time and if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. Take care and please open the attachment for a better explanation to our stance and request.  
Tony Chesak



Mary Jo Schaak, 1737 Eleanor Ave.

Against menthol ban, she's not a smoker, if it's one type it should be banned statewide. Wants to know what happened o the millions of dollars from tobaccos settlement. This will hurt small businesses.

From: Valdemar Bahena (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:20 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward1-7

Cc: [robert.hanson@isd197.org](mailto:robert.hanson@isd197.org); Coleman, Chris (CI-StPaul)

Subject: ALMAS Letter of Support .docx - Invitation to edit

valdemar0454@isd197.org has invited you to edit the following document:



ALMAS Letter of Support .docx

[Open in Docs](#)

This email grants access to this item without logging in. Only forward it to people you trust.

Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council

15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall

Saint Paul, MN 55102

[09/25/17]

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. I am writing regards two you guys about approving about selling tobacco in only tobacco shops in regards to me i say you guys should because selling them in gas station or in each corner store can be dangerous because you never know if someone is buying tobacco for young kids and sometimes kids can be reached by it and that how they start of by doing those things i say you should totally approve it because i have sibilings and friends can start doing that if there selling that in gas stations i say this because i know people that are reached by it hope you guys approve and thank you for your time .

Sincerely,

[Valdemar bahena]

[Almas student]

[Valdemar bahena - henry sibley high school ,85 E Emerson Ave St. Paul , 651-329-9245]

From: Karelly Reyes Alvarado (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:28 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward1-7

Cc: Coleman, Chris (CI-StPaul)

Subject: ALMAS Letter of Support .docx

Karelly Reyes Alvarado has shared a link to the following document:



ALMAS Letter of Support .docx

[Open in Docs](#)

Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council

15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall

Saint Paul, MN 55102

9/25/17

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The business owners at gas stations claim that they're losing profits and when the menthol law is passed they'll lose all their money and lose family relationships.

But, they're wrong. They could still be able to sell the little snacks and drinks and still be making a perfect amount of money. What our problem is is that we're losing actual human lives. What the opponents are basically saying is that money is way more important than lives. We're losing family members, friends, and people from our neighbourhood.

I hope we can be able to make a change and help end this awful cruelty. I have close family members that have been affected by menthol. I'm tired of seeing lives being taken away from menthol. We don't need youth being affected by menthol and eventually lose their lives.

Sincerely,

Karelly Reyes

Student

Henry Sibley High School, 330 Westview Dr West Saint Paul, 612-432-4559

From: Britney Meza Rodriguez [<mailto:britney8374@isd197.org>]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:49 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward1-7; Coleman, Chris (CI-StPaul); Robert Hanson

Subject: Menthol Vote

Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council

15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall Saint Paul, MN 55102

Sep. 25, 2017

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The tobacco industry targets diverse neighborhoods and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products. What I'm concern about is the fact that these gas stations are selling a product thats killing people and these gas station owners are so concerned about not being able to sell these prodructs that kill people all because they might lose profit.

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Britney Meza Rodriguez

[Student]

Contact information -

290 Westview Dr. Apt. 209 West St.Paul MN 55118, 651-313-4107

From: [eugene.nichols@comcast.net](mailto:eugene.nichols@comcast.net) [<mailto:eugene.nichols@comcast.net>]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:49 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward1-7

Subject: AALF Letter to Support the ordinance to restrict menthol

Dear St. Paul Council Members,

Please find the letter from the Jeffrey A. Hassan, Executive Director of the African American Leadership Forum (AALF) in support of the St. Paul ordinance to restrict the sale of menthol products to 21 and over tobacco shops.

We trust you will prioritize the health of the black community above the profit of tobacco companies and those that sell menthol products in all St. Paul communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene M. Nichols  
AALF-Health & Wellness Group Co-Chair  
[www.aalftc.org](http://www.aalftc.org)





September 25, 2017

John A. Knapp  
Direct Dial: (612) 604-6404  
Direct Fax: (612) 604-6804  
jknapp@winthrop.com

Mayor Chris Coleman  
City of Saint Paul  
390 City Hall  
15 West Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Council President Russ Stark and  
Members of the Saint Paul City Council  
310 City Hall  
15 West Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Menthol Ban

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and Members of the City Council:

I am writing on behalf of our client, McLane Company, Inc., in opposition to the proposal before the City Council to amend Chapter 324 of the City Legislative Code to add menthol, mint or wintergreen, and fruit to the definition of flavored tobacco products, thereby limiting the sale of such products to retail stores that derive at least 90 percent of their revenue from tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, electronic delivery devices, or nicotine or lobelia delivery products and where the retailer ensures that no person under eighteen (18) years of age is permitted to enter, at any time.

The proposal, in effect, will only allow consumers to purchase menthol cigarettes in an adults-only tobacco shop and prohibit convenience stores and gas stations and other retailers from selling menthol cigarettes. McLane opposes this approach and asks you to reconsider the proposal.

McLane is a supply chain services leader that buys, sells, and delivers more than 50,000 products including foods, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, tobacco, household items, over-the-counter remedies, health and beauty aids, automotive products and more to nearly 90,000 locations throughout the United States.

McLane significantly contributes to Minnesota's economy and communities. McLane employs 498 individuals at a grocery distribution warehouse in Northfield and paid \$152,440,499 in taxes in 2016. McLane's concern lies in the fact that a reduction in their revenue's due to regulatory pressures could lead to adverse effects on their business operations, including negative impacts on employment and significant reductions in the sale of highly taxed produces.



# *New Hope Baptist Church*

Mayor Coleman and Members of the Saint Paul City Council  
15 W Kellogg Blvd #310  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

September 19, 2017

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I have served as Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, located at 712 Burr Street in St. Paul since 2004 and am writing to express our support for the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of menthol tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. As Pastor, I am concerned about the health of my congregation and my community.

It is time to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to adult only stores in St. Paul! Menthol cools the throat, which makes it easier for our youth to start smoking. Menthol makes tobacco more addictive and harder to stop smoking. Of the African Americans who smoke, 88% use menthol. Menthol cigarettes cause cancer, heart and lung diseases, and death. Since tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Minnesota, preventing young people from starting to smoke is very important.

This policy will go a long way to prevent young people in our community from becoming addicted to these products. The Saint Paul City Council is helping to prevent another generation from becoming lifelong tobacco users. Thank you for supporting the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Rev. Runney D. Patterson, Pastor  
New Hope Baptist Church  
712 Burr Street  
St. Paul, Mn 55130

Postcards from 8 young people **in Support** of the Menthol Ordinance Change:

1. Hill  
1xx Granite St
2. JZ  
3xx Jenks Ave
3. La David Collins  
10xx Bradley St N
4. Tiara Cortez  
13xx Westminster St
5. Reniya  
3xx Larpenteur Ave E
6. Cha  
12xx Victoria St N
7. Gabriel M. Nagy  
9xx Como Place
8. Well Yang  
Timberlake Rd.

Pat Fering – Called 9/26 at 10:32 AM – Is opposed to ban on menthol cigarettes and instead there needs to be better enforcement. Should not punish adults for something is legal. Kids will start smoking regular cigarettes, or even flavoring them on their own. He isn't a smoker, but having adults go out of their way to buy menthols is ridiculous.

Stephanie Molliconi – 1890 Rome – Left VM at 4:30 PM Tues 9/26 – Strongly encouraging CM Tolbert to support menthol restrictions; doesn't understand why anyone would not want to protect our children .

Marguerite Zauner – 1694 Lincoln – Left VM at 5:30 pm Tues 9/26 – Wants CM Tolbert to support menthol restrictions and remember it's for kids health.

Andrew Roy – 1611 Berkeley – Left VM at 5:40 pm Tues 9/26 – Spoke in support of restricting menthols. They are a dangerous starter and not good for kids.

Hannah Cooper – Left VM at 7:20 pm Tues 9/26 – Support the sale of menthol tobacco.

From: Scott Beedy [<mailto:beeds16@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 5:58 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward3; Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul); Kelley, Pattie (CI-StPaul)  
Subject: Please vote yes on menthol ordinance tomorrow

Dear Councilmember Tolbert,

I followed the menthol hearing last Wednesday and am writing to encourage you to vote yes on the ordinance tomorrow. As your constituent, I hope you will vote to protect youth and save lives, instead of prioritizing tobacco profits for a limited number of stores.

I strongly support small businesses and frequently shop at the ones located in our neighborhood. I don't want stores to go out of business. That being said, I don't believe in sacrificing the health of our community so a few folks can profit from a deadly product.

You may remember that before St. Paul restricted the sale of fruit and candy tobacco a few years ago, some of the same store owners argued that *that* ordinance would put them out of business. Well, it didn't. And I don't believe that this one will either.

Please vote in favor of the menthol ordinance tomorrow. I am proud to live in Mac-Groveland and I hope I can be proud of the job you do representing us. I will follow up with you after the vote.

Sincerely,

Scott Beedy  
[270 Brimhall St](#)

From: Charles McGough [<mailto:CMcGough@mcgough.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 6:59 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward3  
Subject: Wintergreen tobacco products

Good evening Councilman,

I wanted to reach out regarding the potential ban on flavored tobacco products. While a concern for these products luring kids into tobacco use seems like an easy cause to get behind, this is a clear example of looking for a solution without a problem. These products, while flavored, are still very far from "tasty" or something that might be more appealing to kids. The idea that the ban is to protect kids is an obvious ruse set in motion by those that don't understand that we don't need government to protect us from ourselves at any level.

My bigger concern is the impact such a ban would have on our small businesses. While I don't have the data in front of me, I'd wager that tobacco sales are a large source of revenue for our convenience

stores. Taking that away will have a much bigger impact hurting our local economy (people are lining up there online tobacco orders as we speak) than saving our kids from smoking.

Thank you for your time,

Charlie McGough

From: Paula Keller [<mailto:pkathome@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 9:41 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

Subject: Support ordinance restricting sale of menthol tobacco products to adult only tobacco retailers

Councilmember Tolbert,

I am writing to ask that you support the ordinance restricting the sale of menthol tobacco products to adult only tobacco retailers that the City Council will consider tomorrow. This is a logical extension of the policy restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products enacted by the council two years ago.

Menthol cigarettes are the commonly used "starter" cigarettes by youth, and the tobacco industry continues to aggressively target the Black, LGBTQ, and low income communities with menthol tobacco products. As a result, these communities use menthol tobacco products at higher rates and suffer disproportionately from tobacco related illness and death as a result.

I believe it is essential to enact this policy to help reduce tobacco related illness and death in St. Paul, particularly among communities that have been historically targeted by the tobacco industry. I ask that you vote in favor of this policy.

Sincerely,  
Paula Keller  
1272 Eleanor Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55116

**From:** Alex Feng [<mailto:fengx098@umn.edu>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 10:32 AM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** [Menthol Ordinance] Alex Feng 4th year Medical Student at UMN

Hello Council members,

My name is Alex Feng, and I'm a fourth year medical student who just completed 4 weeks of pediatrics at St. Paul Children's, and I was at the hearing on menthol tobacco last week. The opposition talked a lot about the cost of menthol tobacco to their stores, but I wanted to tell you about the cost tobacco has on my patients.

Tobacco costs my patients their ability to breathe.

Tobacco costs my patients years of their lives. Tobacco costs my patients their parents, their spouses, their siblings. The costs of tobacco on people's lives is devastating, and I hope you will stand behind this life saving ordinance.

Although I currently live in Minneapolis, I grew up on Grand Ave by the University of St Thomas where my mom and dad went to school to achieve their masters in computer science. I love Minnesota, I love St Paul. This city is my home and where I take most pride in. I hope you all will do what is best for public health and our larger community.

Thank you,

**Alexander Feng**

Dear Mayor Coleman and Members of the City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Model Cities of Saint Paul, Inc. Our mission is to carry out community-based development that improves the quality of life and contributes to the revitalization of urban communities. Our organization is in full support of the proposed ordinance that will shift the sale of menthol tobacco out of the neighborhood convenience stores that young people visit regularly and into adult-only tobacco shops. Many of the young people that we work with are targeted by the tobacco industry with menthol-flavored tobacco products. Tobacco companies add menthol to cool the throat and make them taste better. Menthol tobacco products are available in every neighborhood store in our community. These products are used by the tobacco industry to get young people to try tobacco and keep users addicted for life. The tobacco industry is seeking “replacement smokers” for all of the ones who have quit or died, and they are counting on our youth to fill that role.

Tobacco has long been the number one cause of preventable death in our city. However, according to the 2014 Surgeon General’s Report, restricting sales of tobacco products at the local level is an effective strategy in reaching an overall goal of a society free of tobacco-related death and disease. A policy like the one Saint Paul is considering will help ensure that the next generation can finally say that they are free from the addiction and harms of tobacco.

We commend the members of the Saint Paul City Council for taking a stand against the tobacco industry in order to protect the health of our young people. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kizzy L. Downie, MPA  
Director of Community Services  
Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc.  
1821 UNIVERSITY AVE W  
STE N461  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55104

**From:** Mary Montagne [<mailto:mmmontagne@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2017 4:45 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward4  
**Subject:** Letter of support to restrict menthol sales now

9/26/17

The Honorable Russ Stark  
Saint Paul City Council  
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council President Stark:

As a life-long Saint Paul resident and public health advocate, I am eager to see that our community does all that it can to reduce the harms caused by tobacco. The time is now to pass an ordinance to regulate where menthol tobacco products can be sold in Saint Paul.

I implore you to vote on the menthol tobacco ordinance tomorrow night. Please do not be swayed by the tobacco industry's concerns that retailers need more time to "fully understand the issue" or "prepare" for these inevitable changes. This tobacco industry tactic is an age-old trick deployed for the sole purpose of delaying and stalling.

Menthol tobacco products are killing people in our community now. The cost of losing loved ones to tobacco related disease outweighs any concerns retailers have about potential loss of profits. Please do not postpone making this important public health decision that impacts our entire Saint Paul community.

Sincerely,

Mary Montagne  
1524 Canfield Avenue  
St Paul, MN 55108

Mark Caprioni left a voicemail asking CM Bostrom to vote NO on Menthol ban

James – Ward 6 business owner left voicemail asking CM Bostrom to raise the age to 21 instead of passing a Menthol ban.

Mai – owner of Payne Avenue business asks CM Bostrom to vote NO to Menthol ban.

Charles Hathaway  
507 Montrose Lane  
Saint Paul, MN

September 26, 2017

Dear Councilmember Bostrom,

As you think about your upcoming vote on the Ford zoning plan, I thought that it might be helpful for you to review the situation. The facts and what they indicate are troubling. I hope that you will take action to resolve the problem.

**THE FACTS:**

- The Ford Site Task force, which was intended to represent the community, was not consulted beforehand as to overall density, proposed building heights, or amount of green space to be included in the zoning plan. The plan was kept secret from the Task Force until it was unveiled to the public in November of 2016, and the Task Force wasn't asked to meet to discuss it until six months afterward.
- Despite having been urged by some members to do so, the Task Force never had an in-depth discussion or debate over the social, economic, or community impacts of the plan. Pros and cons were never weighed.
- PED never presented any alternate plans for consideration by the Task Force or the community. Only one proposed plan has ever been brought forth by the city, so there has never been an opportunity for people to seriously consider other options.
- The (relatively mild) Task Force recommendations for changes to the plan were ignored, and were not incorporated into the plan
- At the meeting held by the Highland District Council to consider the plan, there was overwhelming and vociferous community opposition. This opposition was ignored, and the city's plan was endorsed by the HDC.
- The Planning Commission saw overwhelming community opposition to the plan, both in letters received and in public testimony. Yet it endorsed the plan unanimously without even a single suggestion for change in response to the community criticism of the plan.
- Thousands and thousands of people from the community continue to oppose the current plan, having expressed this opposition in many ways and in many venues. Estimates are that approximately 70% of the Highland neighbors oppose the plan. Despite all this, PED has made no effort to adjust the plan to alleviate neighborhood concerns.
- One would expect that if the community were actually being heard, the plan would at some point have been adjusted to bring it more in line with neighborhood expectations. Yet after 10 months of the community expressing its deep concerns, the plan remains essentially unchanged from what it was when it was unveiled in November of 2016.

**WHAT THE FACTS TELL US:**

What I and many others conclude from all of this is that the zoning plan and the process for moving it forward have all along been controlled by people who believe that the community's perspective simply doesn't matter.

It would seem that the people who happen to be part of the Planning Department, or the HDC, or the Planning Commission, believe that their own opinions are important, but others' opinions really are not. So, the thousands of voices of opposition can be dismissed, ignored. Apparently the people expressing opposition simply do not have standing. And their perspective does not deserve to be reflected in the planning for their own neighborhood.

I have been a member of the Ford Site Task Force for ten years, and have followed the process closely. This is how the situation looks to me. But perhaps there's something I'm not seeing or understanding here. Do you see the situation differently?

**WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM, WHY THIS IS WRONG:**

If I'm correct in my assessment, there is a big problem here. Because what it means is that the people controlling the situation have been wholly dismissive of the informed, considered opinion of the people who are closest to the situation and best able to judge the plan's impacts: the Highland neighbors.

These are not selfish whiners. These are exemplary citizens. They are doctors, lawyers, engineers, professors, principals, contractors, journalists, civic leaders, financial analysts, consultants, CEOs and business owners. They are people who provide a large portion of the City's property tax revenue. They are committed to their neighborhoods; they have formed strong bonds with their neighbors through decades of volunteering and community activities. They have invested many hundreds of thousands of dollars in their homes, and in contributions to community programs. They are among the City's most committed citizens in terms of civic engagement. With respect to voting turnout, they are among the City's best. And that's because they care about their community, and their City.

By contrast to the planners, urban-density evangelists, and advocacy groups who are promoting the City's plan, these people actually live here. They feel the effects of the proposed plan in their bones. What happens at the Ford site will have a huge impact on their lives. It will profoundly affect how they live, work, play, commute, and engage with the community. It will affect their families, their neighbors, and their friends. It will change their neighborhoods forever.

These people understand that the City's plan, if adopted, will irrevocably damage their community. To ignore these people and push forward with the plan regardless is simply wrong. It is inconsiderate, insulting, and disrespectful. It is morally wrong.

It is also wrong from a practical perspective; it is foolish. To push forward while ignoring the views of the people closest to the situation is likely to result in poor decision making. The design result is likely to be impractical and problematic, and overall project failure becomes much more likely.

Finally, it is wrong from a social and political perspective. The thousands of citizens who sense that they are being disrespected and ignored are already angry, and rightfully so. To follow along the same course will fan the flames of this anger. The ill-feeling and resentment will remain simmering in the community, and at some point will boil over in unexpected and unpleasant ways.

**YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE A WISER COURSE:**

On Wednesday you will have the opportunity to vote on the zoning plan. You can make the situation worse by choosing to ignore the strong community voices of opposition and vote the plan forward.

Or, you can choose the path of respect, concern, and consideration for the Highland community. The community has made it clear that mere amendments will not suffice – the plan needs a major overhaul.



You have the opportunity now to press pause, and set the plan down so it can be re-worked. For everyone's sake, I hope you will.

Sincerely,  
Charles Hathaway

BEAUTIFUL LIE UGLY TRUTH postcards received IN FAVOR of Menthol Ban:  
Jeremiah @ 595 Larpenteur Ave E

Family Values for Life @ 1280 Arcade Street

Suchin Yang @ 1657 Clarence Street

Willie Suttel @ 1165 Arcade Street

Zach @ 595 Larpenteur Avenue E

De Mo @ 1220 Arcade Street

Lea @ 1582 Montana Avenue

Divine Bathes @ 1165 Arcade Street

Lor @ 1165 Arcade Street

Jonathan @ 607 Minnehaha Ave E

Bao Hnia Xiong @ 1827 Maryland Avenue E

Ntsa lab Lee @ 1970 Arlington Avenue E

Jair Ocumpo @ 607 Minnehaha Avenue

Kyle P @ 1841 Arlington Avenue E

Jennifer Ballinger @ 757 Maryland Avenue E

Faith Vang @ 935 Hyacinth Avenue E

Toua Yang @ 1088 Kingsford Street

