

Yvonne Jones @ 1132 E Magnolia is AGAINST menthol restrictions.

Lorraine Henseth is against menthol restrictions.

Tonya Pederson is against menthol restrictions.

Roger Hanselik on Nebraska Avenue East is against menthol restrictions.

From: Mark Richards [<mailto:markrichards755@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 12:33 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Tobacco shops and menthol

Dear Councilmembers,

I do not use or sell tobacco. I will not be impacted by the proposed menthol and flavor ban. However i am on friendly terms with the owner of a gas station by my house. He works there all day, its his only store, and its his livelihood. He is incredibly disappointed, and hes scared.

Furthermore, the fact that the proposal would prevent gas stations and convenience stores from selling menthol and flavored tobacco, but allow tobacco shops to sell those products, is incredibly unfair.

If banning menthol and flavored tobacco is something the city council feels is a necessary step, then it should be a complete ban. Allowing one type of business owner to profit from the loss of another is inappropriate. Its also unnecessary.

Please vote no. Voting no does not mean you are pro tobacco, or anti-kids. It just means you are voting against an unfair ordinance, and are then free to revisit the issue and get it right.

Sincerely,

Mark

Barbara Roberts @ 2150 Wilson #175 is AGAINST the Menthol ban.

Joanna Schally @ 1698 Ames Avenue is AGAINST the Menthol ban.

Ronald Eishen @ 756 E Geranium Avenue is AGAINST the Menthol ban.

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

Saint Paul City Council Members,

City Council is making the naïve claim that by banning menthol products from our local convenience stores they are saving our city's youth. Kids are going to continue to find a way to get their hands on tobacco products. If anything, we are making it easier for them since the sale of menthol products will go underground with zero adult oversight or regulations put in place. There is already a black market for single cigarettes. This will only grow the problem.

As a parent, I want my children to stay away from tobacco, but that is my job as a parent. I am responsible for ensuring they make healthy decisions, not the city council.

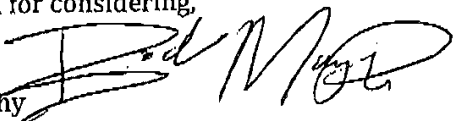
Currently St. Paul has a 97 percent compliance rate for not selling to minors. There are successful regulations in place to keep tobacco out of the hands of minors.

Only 1 percent of St. Paul residents think this is a top priority. How about we focus on matters like: the heroin and opioid epidemic, the rise of violent crimes, sex trafficking, holding the line on property taxes, and the list goes on.

Don't waste time addressing issues that are not important to the city.

If City Council wants to be effective in improving the lives of its citizens, they need to focus on what really matters.

Thank you for considering,


Bob Murphy
1175 Charles Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-260-1351