



November 21, 2018

Members of St. Paul City Council
City of Saint Paul
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Appeal file # 18-122975 – 589 Dale Street North

Dear Honorable Council Members:

I am writing you on behalf of the American Heart Association in Minnesota urging you to deny the appeal to reject the zoning variance request to the above applicant. We agree with the staff recommendation and support the decision made by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) by a unanimous vote. Supporting this variance undermines the purpose of the ordinance – to limit access of tobacco to youth.

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to building healthier lives free from heart disease and stroke – two of the leading causes of death in the United States. We are writing to you today on their behalf and on behalf of the millions of other constituents with, or at risk of developing CVD.

The economic cost of tobacco in our state is staggering. Minnesotans are facing \$7.5 billion annually in excess healthcare costs and loss of productivity. We urge you to take this positive step forward toward the health of our youth and community and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Sanchez".

Sarah Sanchez
Community Advocacy Director
612-991-7398
sarah.sanchez@heart.org