

ORD 23-52 (Joe O'Connor Public Comment)

From: Joe Oconnor <joe.oconnor@circlek.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2:50 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Amending Chapter 324

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Good afternoon Chris

My name is Joe O'Connor, and I am an employee of Holiday/Circle K.

We fully acknowledge the responsible selling and merchandising of tobacco products, and strictly follow all tobacco regulations including age verification. Our employees are fully trained regarding age verification, and we no longer sell any flavored items.

We have experienced many new regulations, and have worked hard to make sure we are in compliance, even though we have seen a large drop in sales, and unfortunately a reduction in our labor force in the city.

These restrictive policies will further hurt our stores, our employees, and other businesses in St. Paul. We will simply continue to move business out of St. Paul. I have seen the numbers 1st hand.

The reduction of licenses, and denying license transfers makes it very tough on a business, especially when tobacco makes up over 40% of the inside sales in these store.

I appreciate your time

Joe O'Connor

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