



November 19, 2018

Members of the City Council

Re: Requested Variance for 589 Dale

My name is Sylvia Amos and I represent the Stairstep Foundation, a faith-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of our members and the broader community.

I write to support the staff recommendation and the vote of the BZA to deny the variance for 589 Dale requested by George Hark. We strongly advocated for the passage of the menthol ordinance and were supportive of the distance requirements between tobacco shops and the cap on tobacco licenses that Saint Paul has imposed. Heavy concentrations of tobacco outlets negatively impact our neighborhoods and research shows that these heavy concentrations actually are associated with higher levels of youth tobacco use.

The reasons given by the council for imposing the half mile distance requirement and the license cap indicated that the council shared our concern. The effort to avoid these regulations should not be allowed. Your decision will have a profound impact on the youth of today and tomorrow. This is about protecting the health of our future. They expect us, you and I, to speak and act on their behalf and in their best interest – they should not have to expect anything less.

Again, I urge you to reject this appeal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Sylvia Amos", is written over the typed name.

Dr. Sylvia Amos, Director of Programs  
Stairstep Foundation