



Dear Mayor Carter and Members of the St. Paul City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Twin Cities Recovery Project. We strongly support the City Council's proposed ordinance to reduce the number of tobacco licenses in Saint Paul.

Twin Cities Recovery Project Inc is dedicated to raising awareness within the community about the risks associated with commercial tobacco and its adverse consequences. Our goal is to reduce the usage and accessibility of these products, with a strong emphasis on safeguarding the well-being of all community members. While we prioritize the prevention of commercial tobacco use among young individuals to promote a safer and healthier lifestyle for them. We have been working in partnership with Northpoint on policy to end sales of flavored tobacco products. If passed, the proposal will increase the availability of flavored tobacco products in the city and harm public health.

When more tobacco and e-cigarette retailers are located in a given area, residents' health suffers. Youth are more likely to start using tobacco. People who smoke consume more cigarettes per day and have a harder time quitting. Further, tobacco and e-cigarette retailers cluster in neighborhoods with a high percentage of low-income residents and Black and Latino residents. These communities are targeted by tobacco companies, and they disproportionately suffer the health harms caused by tobacco use.

By reducing your total number of licenses you will ensure that St. Paul's commercial tobacco retailer density cannot become more concentrated. Lower concentration corresponds with lower overall rates of use. Our organization supports your efforts to reduce the commercial tobacco licenses in St. Paul. With these changes, St. Paul is taking steps toward a healthier community. I hope the City Council will pass this bold public health policy.

Sincerely,

Karissa Mariee, COO

Twin Cities recovery Project Inc

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