OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY Sara Grewing, City Attorney



CITY OF SAINT PAUL Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

Civil Division 400 City Hall 15 West Kellogg Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Telephone: 651 266-8710 Facsimile: 651 298-5619

August 21, 2013

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Owner/Manager Family Dollar, Inc. #6507 1990 Suburban Avenue Saint Paul, MN 55119-7001

RE:

Cigarette/Tobacco license held by Family Dollar Stores, Inc. d/b/a Family Dollar Store, Inc. #6507 for the premises located at 1990 Suburban Avenue in Saint Paul License ID #20040005320

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) has recommended adverse action against the Cigarette/Tobacco license held by Family Dollar Stores, Inc. d/b/a Family Dollar Store, Inc. #6507 for the premises located at 1990 Suburban Avenue in Saint Paul. The basis for the recommendation is as follows:

On August 16, 2013, tobacco compliance re-check was conducted at Family Dollar, Inc. #6507 located at 1990 Suburban Avenue. A fifteen year old male entered your establishment and asked to buy cigarettes. He was asked to show his identification, and did so. It correctly stated his date of birth, which indicated he was underage. Nevertheless, the clerk sold him a package of Newport cigarettes. Sale of tobacco to an underage person is a violation of Minn. Stat. § 609.685 and Saint Paul Legislative Code § 324.07(c).

This is the second (2nd) violation within the past year for the sale of cigarettes to an underage person; therefore, per Saint Paul Legislative Code §324.11 (b) (1) the licensing office will recommend a \$400.00 matrix penalty.

At this time you have three options on how to proceed:

1. You can pay the recommended \$400.00 matrix penalty. If this is your choice, you should make payment directly to the Department of Safety and Inspections, at 375 Jackson Street, Ste. 220, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806 no later than **Monday, September 2, 2013**. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Payment of the \$400.00 matrix penalty will be considered to be a waiver of the hearing to which you are entitled.

Family Dollar Store #6507 August 21, 2013 Page 2

- If you wish to admit the facts but you contest the penalty, you may have a public hearing before the Saint 2. Paul City Council. You will need to send me a letter with a statement admitting to the facts and requesting a public hearing. I will need to receive your letter no later than Monday, September 2, 2013. The matter will then be scheduled before the City Council for a public hearing to determine whether to impose the \$400.00 matrix penalty. You will have an opportunity to appear before the Council and make a statement on your own behalf.
- If you dispute the facts outlined above, you may request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge 3. (ALJ). You will need to send me a letter disputing the facts and requesting an administrative hearing by Monday, September 2, 2013. At that hearing both you and the City will appear and present witnesses, evidence and cross-examine each other's witnesses. After receipt of the ALJ's report (usually within 30 days), a public hearing will need to be scheduled. At that time, the City Council will decide whether to adopt, modify or reject the ALJ's report and recommendation.

Please note: If you choose an administrative hearing, the Department of Safety and Inspections reserves the Right to request that City Council impose the costs of the administrative hearing per Saint Paul Legislative Code § 310.05 (k).

If you have not contacted me by Monday, September 2, 2013, I will assume that you are not contesting the imposition of the \$400.00 matrix penalty. In that case, the matter will be placed on the City Council Consent Agenda for approval of the recommended penalty.

Please be advised that the clerk who was identified as having made the sale on this date is also being charged a \$50.00 administrative penalty pursuant to Minn. Stat. §461.12, subd. 3. This is a separate action from this license matter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (651) 266-8710.

Sincerely,

Sloffrey Karls Karls Jk

Assistant City Attorney

cc: Christine Rozek, Deputy Director of DSI

Family Dollar Stores, Inc., Tax & License Department, P.O. Box 1017, Charlotte NC 28201-1017 Betsy Leach, Executive Director, District 1 Community Council, SunRay Shopping Center 2105 ½ Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55119

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVACE BY U.S. MAIL

COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

Julie Kraus, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that on the day of August she served the attached **NOTICE OF VIOLATION** and correct copy thereof in an envelope addressed as follows:

Owner/Manager Family Dollar, Inc. #6507 1990 Suburban Avenue Saint Paul, MN 55119-7001

Family Dollar Stores, Inc. Tax & License Department P.O. Box 1017 Charlotte NC 28201-1017

Betsy Leach, Executive Director District 1 Community Council SunRay Shopping Center 2105 ½ Old Hudson Road St. Paul, MN 55119

(which is the last known address of said person) depositing the same, with postage prepaid, in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Julie Kraus

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2/st day of August, 2013

Notary Public

RITA M. BOSSARD
NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA
MY COMMISSION
EXPIRES JAN. 31, 2015