

I received a call from an “anonymous” constituent, just wanting to voice her opinion on the single sale cigar ordinance (Ord 14-34). She stated that she disagrees with this amendment, because people will still find a way to purchase them affordably, even if it means going elsewhere, in turn causing St. Paul businesses to lose out on revenue.

Dear Kathy Lantry,

I would like to vote no on the cigar ban ordinance. I think it's unethical and it targets smokers once again. If this is allowed to happen next they will take away anything else they see fit to do away with. It harms local business and attacks a group of individuals for their preference to smoke cigars. I know some people abuse these items for drug abuse but for those who just enjoy in their past time a leisurely smoke this infringes on their rights. Imagine an ordinance on Coffee or Lottery tickets it targets those who enjoy these things in there past time. It seems once again the minority is trying to make decisions for the majority. The group that this targets has no say so on this subject because the people we placed in charge to help us in our communities has he/she's own agenda and that is not why these people were elected. I don't even understand what the issue of this ban is the people buying these cigars are of age and consent to smoke them as they please. Now I'm originally from St.louis Mo Ferguson to be exact and in Missouri actually in St.louis city they made an ordinance to ban glass bottles from being sold in the city due to the large amount of broken glass in abandoned lots and sidewalks; that makes absolute since this ordinance banning individual cigar sales seems like an attempt to target a group of citizens for whatever reason in a show of power by the council. I think the council should spend their time with more constructive projects like better playground equipment or get to know your community activities. finally I would just like to ask why this ordinance has come into place and what is it's goal.

Thank you sincerely,

-RESIDENT OF SAINT PAUL

I live in ward five and work as a social worker in St. Paul at a nonprofit that serves persons with chemical dependency and are involved in the court system. I have never been motivated to write you or any council member in the past. While grabbing a diet soda at my local gas station I noticed a yellow flyer concerning an upcoming hearing on a proposal to ban the sale of cigars in packages of less than 5 cigars.

I am not a smoker and have never been one. This proposal does alarm me however. I do not agree with the proposal one bit. I see its potential negative economic impact on small business retailers whom are already struggling during these troublesome economic times. It also makes me wonder what will be the next target of the council? maybe it will be the diet soda I purchased this morning? I see it as a form of social engineering on the part of the city, under the guise protecting minors from smoking. We already have laws in place to prevent and punish those who may sell to minors. I do believe that adults have the right to buy these cigars in any quantity and the city has no business dictating to retailers or consumers the price or quantity.

I plan to inform people I know today of this proposal by the council. Maybe they will see my concern on this proposal as well. I will be curious to see what your position on this matter is.

Thank you for your time today. **Steven Hawes**

Hello city council members,

this message from *Midway Tobacco Smoke* team located at 1464 university ave west, asking you to **Vote NO** on the cigar package ordinance

We are a law-abiding retailer and we do not sell to minors.

Passing this **unfair** ordinance will economically damage our business. Customers will take their business to bordering cities.

A city council should not mandate Minimum retail prices of cigars.

Adult cigar smokers will loose their freedom of speech -second amendment- of choosing their method of buying and limiting their choices.

You will create a black market for illegal transaction between customers.

Increasing the price on single cigars will not prevent Saint Paul Minors from smoking.