



April 1, 2015

The Honorable Chris Coleman, Mayor of Saint Paul
And Members of the Saint Paul City Council
Saint Paul City Hall
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor Coleman and Members of the City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR), an organization dedicated to reducing the harms of tobacco use in Minnesota. ANSR fully supports ordinance #15-12, which would strengthen the safety and health of Saint Paul's neighborhoods.

Our organization is deeply concerned about tobacco vendors who repeatedly violate city code. These vendors show a disregard for the laws that keep our youth healthy and tobacco-free. Among Saint Paul Public School 9th grade boys who have used tobacco in the past 30 days, 23% reported purchasing it at a gas station or convenience store, according to the 2010 MN Student Survey. We need store owners who will not violate the law and will be partners in keeping tobacco out of the hands of minors.

Selling tobacco is not a right. It is a privilege that comes with great responsibility to follow the law and not sell to those under the age of 18 years. Businesses that repeatedly violate city ordinances should not be trusted with the responsibility of selling tobacco.

The Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota urges your support for ordinance #15-12. The proposed ordinance gives the city an additional tool for fostering health in our youth and our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Weigum
President

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