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Dear Councilmembers,

A few weeks ago you received an email from Tyrone Terrill who stated more information was needed about the impact the menthol ordinance would have on the AA community before his organization would support the ordinance. I am writing to give an update on where things stand.

The African American Leadership Council (AALC) members discussed the menthol ordinance at two committee meetings in past two weeks at their full board meeting. At each meeting, they voted to support the effort to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco in Saint Paul. I attended the board meeting and the AALC board voted to support the menthol ordinance.

Our coalition is hoping to present to the Black Ministerial Alliance in September. We've been working with many local faith leaders to educate the community and they are supportive of this effort.

From my perspective and as a member of the menthol coalition who has been talking with community leaders about this issue, we have great support from the AA community for restricting the sale of menthol in stores kids can enter.

Thank you for your support,

Damone J. Presley Sr.

Youth Count Program Director