

From: Tiffany Mohs [<mailto:tmohsmdlv@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 7:14 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

Subject: Tobacco products

Dear sir,

This email is in protest of banning menthol, mint and wintergreen sales. I fully understand the harmful addition smoking is in general. However isn't it our choice to purchase menthol? I strongly encourage you to NOT SUPPORT this ban.

Thank you for your time,

Tiffany Jevnager

**From:** Amy Alch [<mailto:amyalch@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, September 09, 2017 8:07 PM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

**Subject:** No menthol tobacco

The Honorable Chris Tolbert

Saint Paul City

Council

15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Tolbert:

Thank you for representing our district and for taking the time to read this letter. My name is Amy Alch and my family and I have lived in Highland for the last 21 years. I am very eager to see that our community does all that it can to reduce the harm caused by tobacco.

My mother smoked for 50 years and was lucky enough to survive a week in the ICU with pneumonia, emphysema and bronchitis. My cousin smoked for more than 50 years and had a lobe of her lung removed after a cancer diagnosis. I am just one person who life has been touched twice by tobacco and I don't even smoke.

They became addicted as juveniles and went down the road to their ill health and received thousands of dollars in health care. So many of those who start now may not have insurance one day, and we both know the cost to society for those who can't afford insurance.

Saint Paul was one of the first cities in the country to pass an ordinance that regulates the sale of flavored tobacco products. Thank you for taking these products out of stores where kids can enter and selling them only in adult-only tobacco shops.

Our city should treat menthol flavored tobacco products the same way that we treat the other flavored ones. Menthol is the most common tobacco starter for kids as the menthol flavor masks the harsh tobacco taste. For that reason alone, St. Paul needs to restrict access to all flavored tobacco products, and that includes menthol. We hope the St. Paul City Council will pass an ordinance to regulate where menthol tobacco products can be sold in order to protect our youth.

Sincerely,

Amy Alch

**From:** Sarah [<mailto:smillerjohnson@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, September 10, 2017 7:49 PM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

**Subject:** Please pass ordinance to make the purchase of menthol tobacco products more difficult for kids

The Honorable Chris  
Tolbert  
Saint Paul City  
Council

15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City  
Hall

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Tolbert:

I live on Hillcrest Avenue in St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood. I have been proud to raise my family in Highland for more than 16 years. I am writing to you today because I am urging you to pass the ordinance that gets menthol tobacco products out of convenience stores where children the same age as my sons (16 and 14) can gain access. Our St. Paul community is very important to our family, and we hope that our elected officials do all they can to keep our community safe. This includes creating laws that can help reduce the many harms caused by tobacco products.

Passing an ordinance to get menthol tobacco products out of convenience stores and into adult-only tobacco stores where kids can't enter would be a great step forward to protect our youth from these harmful products. Menthol tobacco products may be even more dangerous than regular tobacco products for kids because they are easier to start smoking, chewing or vaping, and the menthol taste and cooling effect masks the harshness of tobacco. Please support an ordinance to regulate where menthol tobacco products can be sold to protect youth and future generations in our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Johnson  
1283 Hillcrest Avenue  
St. Paul MN 55116

Linda Irestone

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2124 Geranium Ave E

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Saint Paul, MN 55119-3346

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Council Member Dan Bostrom  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West  
320-B City Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member Bostrom:

It is a rotten deal for the city of St. Paul to target menthol smokers and adults who use flavored tobacco. Either people are going to quit smoking altogether or they will travel outside the city to get their preferred brand. Either way, the city loses revenue. It seems strange to raise the taxes on smokers and then propose a ban that will force them to quit or buy from someone else. The government should stop singling out smokers with arbitrary tax increases and bans. It is unfair, to say the least.

For the past twenty years, I have been a smoker. I buy a carton at Holiday's, which is a local convenience store. When I go to pick up my carton of Camel Crush Silvers, which costs \$80 alone, I will sometimes buy gas or make other small purchases. If the city were to ban menthols, I do not know what I would do. I cannot afford to travel outside St. Paul for my cigarettes, and I do not like the regular brand. Quitting cold turkey would be my only option at that point, which I would imagine is how a lot of people feel.

The city is losing out on a lot of potential money if they ban these products outright. It is completely impractical for me to travel for my smokes, and I am not going to switch brands. This is quite a bit of tax money that the city is seemingly willing to let float away for unknown reasons. Not only will St. Paul lose out on the money, but it will inconvenience a lot of people. That is why I ask you to stand up against this destructive ban.

Thank you for your help,

Linda Irestone

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Dear Cnclm Bostrom,

I am disappointed to learn that our Mayor and some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. This on top of a long list of anti-retail policies that have already been passed in recent years. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Wally Kenny

1375 Maryland Ave E

Saint Paul, MN 55106-2862

Dear Cnclm Bostrom,

I am disappointed to learn that our Mayor and some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. This on top of a long list of anti-retail policies that have already been passed in recent years. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lafi Qrabawi

1662 White Bear Ave N

Saint Paul, MN 55106-1610

Jawad Almaliki (owner of store in St Paul) called to say he is against the St Paul Menthol ban.

Postcards from BEAUTIFUL LIE UGLY TRUTH **FOR** the Menthol ban received from:

Bee Xiong  
1827 Maryland Avenue

Shoua Yang  
1827 Maryland Avenue

Dylan Worley  
2072 Sherwood Avenue

PuZong Lee  
707 Cook Ave #2

Ching Moua  
190 Hyacinth Street

Baw Moua  
1132 Jenks Avenue

Pan Xiong  
844 Jenks Avenue

Caller left voice mail - no name or address. He is appalled city officials are trying to take away another of our "God given rights" to menthol cigarettes and suggests city officials focus on the rampant pedophilia and Islamification in our schools instead.

Dear Council President Stark

The tobacco industry targets our communities and our youth with menthol tobacco.

Menthol cools and numbs the throat, disguising the harshness of the smoke. Menthol tobacco is easy to start and even harder to quit. By regulating the sale of menthol tobacco, you can help prevent addiction and tobacco-related disease. Please act now to protect our community and our youth.

Sincerely, University of MN  
McKinzy Butler - medical student

Address 208 Berry St.

City St. Paul Zip 55114

**BEAUTIFUL LIE**  
**UGLY TRUTH**

ABOUT MENTHOL TOBACCO

[www.BeautifulLieUglyTruth.org](http://www.BeautifulLieUglyTruth.org)



Council President Russ Stark  
15 Kellogg Blvd. West  
310-D City Hall  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

“Beautiful Lie Ugly Truth” postcards (example attached) from the following:



**Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 5:32 PM**

**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward2; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5;  
word6@ci.stpaul.mn.us; word7@ci.stpaul.mn.us**

**Cc: atobasi@aol.com**

**Subject: MENTHOL BAN**

Dear Council Member

I am a retailer in the city of Saint Paul for the last 27 years, own and operate 2 MINNOCO gas stations,  
for all that time I provided services and have been active in the community and ran a clean operation.

we have been having a very hard time keeping up with the increases of our expenses such as electric and gas, minimum wages, taxes and the list goes on....  
also my family's health insurance policy went up from \$13,000 per year a few years ago to about \$40,000 after Obama care came into effect, basically it has been a challenge.

My customers come to my store for the convenience I offer, Gas, cigarettes , milk , eggs, bread.....

This proposed menthol tobacco ban will take away 68% of my cigarette business, it will be extremely hard for me to keep up with my experiences and keeping my doors open if you take that much of my revenues away and give it to Tobacco stores.

Tobacco stores sell Drugs accessories and all kinds of stuff that I refuse to sell. Awarding them by giving them our business makes no sense what so ever.

Also, I like to add that no studies been done on whether this ban will achieve any of the intended goals nor what kind of economic impact on the city and the city's small businesses  
?????

It's an IDEA that has no proof of accomplishing anything at all.

Do you know that the city of Saint Paul streets are full of marijuana ?, that is what lots of the young people of the city SMOKE, attention and work should be done there, not targeting legitimate businesses who are trying to survive.

The reason for this BAN also does not make no sense, it says that tobacco company's target African American and LGBTQ communities , infact they are in business to sell tobacco, period.

This ban is a bad idea all around, also it will destroy lots of small businesses which will make it hard for some neighborhoods that rely on the convenience that these stores offer.

PLEASE VOTE NO TO THIS BAD IDEA, and save what's left of small businesses in Saint Paul.

I am willing to meet and answer any questions, also offer what I know to help come up with IDEAS that will actually accomplish goals.

THANK YOU very much for taking the time to read my email and learn about my issue with this proposed ban.

Thanks again  
Abdalla Tobasi

TOBASI STOP#1&2

**From: Andrew Stone**  
**Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 1:08 PM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Cc: Henningson, Samantha (CI-StPaul)**  
**Subject: A resident's appreciation for your support against Menthol tobacco**

August 1, 2017

Dear Council Member Stark,

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for your efforts to restrict menthol tobacco to adult only tobacco stores. Community members have been working tirelessly to counter the tobacco industry's unethical targeting of youth and marginalized communities. Through this hard work and partnership with you, I believe we will create a healthier city and protect future generations from the harms of menthol tobacco.

Once again, thank you for your dedication to this issue. Your leadership is an asset to our city.

Sincerely,

Andrew Stone

**From: Fady Elias**  
**Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 10:16 AM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Please OPPOSE harmful regulations in the Twin Cities**

Dear Cnclm Stark, I am disappointed to learn that the some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Sincerely, Fady Elias Energy Park Dr Saint Paul, MN 55108-1533



**From: Gary Merken**  
**Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 12:51 PM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Please OPPOSE harmful regulations in the Twin Cities**

Dear Cnclm Stark, I am disappointed to learn that the some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Sincerely, Gary Merken Saint Paul, MN 55105-1446

**From: Gorges Assal**  
**Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 2:17 PM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Please OPPOSE harmful regulations in the Twin Cities**

Dear Cnclm Stark, I am disappointed to learn that the some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Sincerely, Gorges Assal Energy Park Dr Saint Paul, MN 55108-1533

**From: Holly Buchanan**  
**Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 7:05 PM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Letter to St. Paul City Council Members**

Dear Cnclm Stark, Banning the sale of all flavored menthol cigarettes in addition to mint and wintergreen flavored cigars and chewing tobacco is clearly an attempt by City Council to further limit the choices of adult tobacco consumers, and it's UNFAIR! These restrictions on legal tobacco products go too far. Attempting to ban flavored tobacco is a prime example of government overreach. St. Paul has already banned all flavored tobacco in the city except for menthol, mint, and wintergreen. Banning these products even further unfairly limits my choices as an adult tobacco consumer. It's not about flavors. It's about limiting adult choices. Banning flavors will only undermine local small businesses and threaten our city's economy. Please STOP targeting adult tobacco consumers with unreasonable regulations. This is an important issue to me and I will remember how you vote. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Holly Buchanan Saint Paul, MN 55104-1013

**From: James Hawila**  
**Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 11:12 AM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Please OPPOSE harmful regulations in the Twin Cities**

Dear Cnclm Stark, I am disappointed to learn that the some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Sincerely, James Hawila Saint Paul, MN 55104-5745

**From: Khader Sofi**  
**Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 3:08 PM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Please OPPOSE harmful regulations in the Twin Cities**

Dear Cnclm Stark, I am disappointed to learn that the some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered

could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Sincerely, Khader Sofi Saint Paul, MN 55104-3902

**From: Mike Voelker**  
**Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 9:11 AM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Please OPPOSE harmful regulations in the Twin Cities**

Dear Cnclm Stark, I am disappointed to learn that the some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Sincerely, Mike Voelker Saint Paul, MN 55104-5329

**From: Nicholas Pricco**  
**Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 2:25 PM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>**  
**Subject: Menthol Tobacco**

Dear Council President Stark,

My name is Nick Pricco . I am a first year medical student at the University of Minnesota and a constituent in your district.

First, I wanted to thank you for your work on restricting flavored tobacco products in St. Paul. This has been a big step forward for our city in protecting children from the harms of tobacco. However, I recently learned about the harms of menthol tobacco, and am concerned about the

health inequities they are creating in our community. I believe we can work together to make Saint Paul a healthier city in the future, and I support the work that the Ramsey County Tobacco Coalition is doing to reduce the harm of menthol on our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this important issue,  
Nick

Nick Pricco  
University of Minnesota Medical School

**From: ROB**  
**Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 5:48 PM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Flavored tobacco products**

Dear Mr. Stark  
We support our neighborhood convenience store. We are concerned about the proposal to ban flavored tobacco products.  
We believe a ban on a legal product is unnecessary and will harm our local businesses.  
We are against a ban of legal tobacco products.  
Rob and Julie Wheeler

**From: Scott Swanson**  
**Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 10:53 AM**  
**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**  
**Subject: Letter to St. Paul City Council Members**

Dear Cnclm Stark, Banning the sale of all flavored menthol cigarettes in addition to mint and wintergreen flavored cigars and chewing tobacco is clearly an attempt by City Council to further limit the choices of adult tobacco consumers, and it's UNFAIR! These restrictions on legal tobacco products go too far. Attempting to ban flavored tobacco is a prime example of government overreach. St. Paul has already banned all flavored tobacco in the city except for menthol, mint, and wintergreen. Banning these products even further unfairly limits my choices as an adult tobacco consumer. It's not about flavors. It's about limiting adult choices. Banning flavors will only undermine local small businesses and threaten our city's economy. Please STOP targeting adult tobacco consumers with unreasonable regulations. This is an important issue to me and I will remember how you vote. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,  
Scott Swanson Saint Paul, MN 55105-1021

**From: Thomas Kottke**

**Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 12:27 PM**

**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**

**Subject: Thank you for supporting the ordinance to classify menthol in tobacco as a flavoring agent**

Hi, Russ:

I want to take one more opportunity to thank you for your expressed support for an ordinance that would classify menthol as the flavoring product that it really is. With this one ordinance you will probably save more lives than I have in 35 years of clinical practice as a cardiologist. I'm not kidding!

Best wishes,

Tom

Thomas E. Kottke, MD

**From: Will Stewart**

**Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 6:59 AM**

**To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4**

**Subject: Menthol**

I am writing to express my support for the menthol ban. Smoking degrades our environment and health--anything that reduces it's appeal should be done.

Thanks.

-Will Stewart

Merriam Park resident

Sep 04, 2017

Linda Huber

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2245 Knapp St

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Saint Paul, MN 55108-1935

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Council Member Russ Stark  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West  
310-D City Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55102

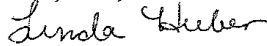
Dear Council Member Stark,

Our city officials should stop trying to interfere with the lives of tobacco users. The proposed ban on menthol cigarettes would be a major inconvenience for me and many others in the city. As someone who cares for an autistic adult child, I have quite a stressful life and find smoking to be a relaxing relief. The nearest place that I can purchase cigarettes is a mile away at a gas station. However, I prefer to go to a smoke shop that is over four miles away. This trip usually takes me over an hour because of the traffic. One of my friends who smokes menthols does not drive at all. Not being able to purchase cigarettes in Saint Paul would cause me to have to drive out of the city, and my friend would have to find a ride to purchase her cigarettes.

The city and state governments have already put too many restrictions on legal tobacco products. Taxes have gone up greatly over the past few years, making cigarette prices totally unreasonable. There have been times when I would use coupons for \$4 off at the gas station or \$1.25 off at the grocery store. In addition to making cigarettes more expensive, now our local government is trying to limit our flavor choices.

The continued effort by our city officials to restrict tobacco products even more will cause many people to purchase their tobacco elsewhere, and that would hurt countless local businesses. Smokes 4 Less is where I typically purchase my cigarettes every eight to ten days. They have a ton of stores in the city, but no one would shop there if they cannot sell the type of cigarettes that people want. Adult consumers should be allowed to choose their tobacco products and purchase them in our city. Take into consideration the impact this ban will have on our businesses and citizens, and oppose additional tobacco flavor limitations.

Thank you for your service,

  
Linda Huber

Council Member Russ Stark  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West  
310-D City Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member Stark,

It is not fair to single out certain smokers. Banning various tobacco flavors and menthol cigarettes will just be a big inconvenience that is not necessary. Because I am thirty-one years old and have long been considered a legal adult, I can make my own decisions without influence from the city council. This ban will also hurt our businesses. For these reasons, it should not be passed.

Banning menthol and certain types of tobacco flavors will not stop children from smoking, if that is truly your concern. There are laws in place and rules for stores to follow to prevent underage access to tobacco. Even with the ban on flavored and menthol cigarettes, minors will get something else to use as a tool for their rebellion. Currently, there is a lot more education about the dangers of smoking, and kids are learning at a younger age. My children are five and eight years old, and they receive information about smoking in school and through public service advertisements on television. This is more successful than a ban.

Usually, I buy my cigarettes right down the street at the local gas station. Most of the time, I will purchase a pop while I am there. If people go outside the city to obtain their menthols, it will mean fewer sales at these businesses. Because I am close to the city line, it will not be that difficult to go outside the limits; it will just be an unwanted inconvenience. Our economy and job market are not too bad but could use improvement. Taking business away from Saint Paul will not help the situation. We need our jobs to stay here, and I, of all people, have a vested interest in this. Currently, I am unemployed and looking for a position in the automotive or forklift repair field. Make sure tobacco users are not singled out, and protect our businesses and economy by fighting against this proposal.

Thank you,

Laurie Parham

Laurie Parham  
1933 Saint Anthony Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55104-3552

