

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

St. Paul City Council members,

This proposed menthol ban is a not only an infringement on the rights of legal adults, but it has the potential for serious economic backlash. Businesses like convenience stores do not have massive reserves they can dip into to make up for the profit losses from the menthol ban. They can't just raise property taxes when they need more revenue.

The best way forward for this city is to understand the whole picture when you pass a piece of legislation. Based on the speed of this ordinance, it is not possible that you have taken the time to fully understand the impact of this ban. Smokers, non-smokers, storeowners, and law enforcement will all feel the blow of this action. Take the time to see the full impact before you rush to a vote.

Thank you,

Sharon Albee

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Members of the St. Paul City Council,

The menthol ban is not as simple as voting on an issue and saving smokers from themselves. This one vote will have a ripple effect that impacts every aspect of the city. Smokers have to travel farther to buy their cigarettes. Storeowners have to raise prices to counter the profit loss. Police have to enforce another law.

The city may be well intentioned but they are definitely not well researched on this issue. Taking the time to build a task force made up of all of the groups impacted by this ban is the only way to handle this responsibly. Please do not rush to a vote if you do not understand the full impact it will have on our city.

Sincerely,





209 Page Street West | Saint Paul, MN 55107
(651) 293-1708 | www.WSCO.org

September 15, 2017

Re: Chapter 324 ordinance amendment regarding flavored tobacco

Dear Saint Paul City Council Members:

The West Side Community Organization (WSCO) is writing in support of the proposed amendment prohibiting the sale of menthol flavored tobacco products except in licensed adult-only tobacco shops.

WSCO works with community to build a healthy, thriving West Side. Menthol cigarettes create an unnecessary burden on individuals and the community, reducing health outcomes and preventing fulfilled lives.

Many studies have concluded that menthol flavoring in cigarettes make it both easier to get addicted to smoking and harder to quit. They are also disproportionately marketed to youth and people of color. Restricting sales of menthol flavored cigarettes to tobacco shops will reduce availability of these products to youth and others, preventing pathways of tobacco addiction and harm to our community.

Sincerely,

Monica Bravo

Executive Director

West Side Community Organization | District 3 Planning Council

monica@wSCO.org

651-293-1708 (Office) | 651-235-5361 (Cell)

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Saint Paul City Council members,

The City Council is more concerned with headlines than they are about creating positive change. Everyone agrees smoking is bad but a ban on menthol products is not going to end smoking. City Council needs to focus on what really matters which is reducing crime, bettering education, and fixing our crumbling city streets.

A ban on menthol tobacco is not going to keep smokers from using the products they prefer, they will just get it from neighboring cities causing a loss of revenue for St. Paul. If City Council cares about the city of St. Paul they will stop trying to pass a ban that will ultimately hurt our local economy and start focusing on the real issues this city is facing.

Sincerely,

Vikki Gleise
550 MONTCALM PL
ST Paul, MN 55116

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Saint Paul City Council members,

These job-killing policies like the menthol ban need to stop. So many of Saint Paul's problems could be solved with a reduction in poverty and this menthol ban will only kill jobs. It is pretty clear that if you take away a major source of income from a business, they are forced to cut jobs or raise prices to make up the difference.

So, I'll ask the City Council. Which option do you prefer? Would you like to see people struggle to stretch their dollars when they buy groceries at a convenience store or would you like to see unemployment numbers rise?

Choose to kill the ban. Don't choose to kill jobs.

Sincerely,

Gerry Chapdelaine

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

St. Paul City Council,

I don't think it is the City Council's job to tell adults what they should and should not do. That is what you are doing with this menthol ban. With this ban you are telling the people of Saint Paul that you are better at making personal decisions than they are. You are not.

In fact, I don't think you fully understand how wide-ranging the impacts of this ban could be. It isn't just smokers who will be impacted. Storeowners will lose business and police officers must enforce the law. The city council should form a task force to understand the issue before they force it upon the people they represent.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lemuel W. Crist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".



Capitol Region Watershed District

1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4 • Saint Paul, MN 55108
T: (651) 644-8888 • F: (651) 644-8894 • capitolregionwd.org

September 19, 2017

Council President Russ Stark
Saint Paul Planning Commission
1400 City Hall Annex
25 Fourth Street West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Comments on draft Zoning and Public Realm Plan for the Ford Site Redevelopment

Dear Council President Stark:

Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) respectfully requests the Saint Paul City Council adopt the draft Zoning and Public Realm Plan for the Ford Site Redevelopment. The plan is well conceived and based on many years of public input and discussions on how best to repurpose the Ford Motor Company's production facility. We believe it will be a model for an extremely livable, mixed use neighborhood that looks to the future with clean technologies and high quality design for stormwater, energy, buildings and infrastructure.


Land use and the health of our waters have been and will continue to be linked. This connection is especially evident at the Ford Site in Saint Paul. CRWD is very pleased to see the draft Zoning and Public Realm Plan includes a re-created historic Hidden Falls creek on the site. This stormwater-based amenity that reconnects the community to parks and the Mississippi River implements the vision originally identified in the City's adopted Great River Passage Plan. The water and recreational connection to the River will be an excellent benefit to all St. Paul residents and visitors. This water feature also serves a more utilitarian function as well by collecting and treating stormwater runoff for the entire development site. This comprehensive approach eliminates the need for individual underground treatment systems scattered across the site. As you may be aware, CRWD partnered with the City of Saint Paul to complete a Sustainable Stormwater Management Study that evaluates this innovative approach in terms of its financial, environmental and social benefit compared to a conventional approach. The study found that the proposed comprehensive, centralized approach as shown in the draft plan doubles the benefit-to-cost ratio and reduces the overall cost of managing stormwater on the Ford site by as much as 40% per acre treated. This approach ultimately will allow for the land to be developed with greater efficiency and flexibility.

Again, CRWD is pleased to see the Zoning and Public Realm Plan for the Ford Site Redevelopment includes the innovative stormwater management approach of a centralized water feature and encourages the Council's adoption of this 21st century Plan.

Our Mission is to protect, manage and improve the water resources of Capitol Region Watershed District.

Council President Start
September 19, 2017
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Doneux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Doneux
Administrator

cc: Anne Hunt, Mayor's Office
Jonathan Sage-Martinson, Planning and Economic Development Department
Merritt Clapp-Smith, Planning and Economic Development Department
Wes Saunders-Pearce, Department of Safety and Inspections

September 19, 2017

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2017
CITY CLERK

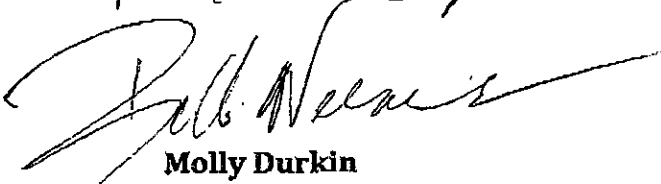
Saint Paul City Council members,

We are small business owners, we moved to St. Paul to raise our kids and run our businesses on our own without the help or interference from mandates, ordinances, and regulations from the city.

That is not the case anymore. What we are witnessing with the proposed menthol ban is shocking-you don't get into business only to be blocked by the city you dedicate your time, money and effort to.

No one thinks smoking is a good idea, it's already dying its own death, bans don't work, education is a better route.

Sincerely,



Molly Durkin
Bill Neimer
805 Sibley Memorial Hwy
Lilydale, MN 55118

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

City Council
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
Saint Paul, MN 55102


RECEIVED
SEP 20 2017
CITY CLERK

St. Paul City Council Members,

I don't believe it is the City Council's job to be telling adults what they should and should not be doing. This is exactly what the menthol ban is doing. With this ban, you are telling the people of St. Paul that you are better at making personal decisions for them than they themselves are. How belittling.

While we know tobacco use is bad, it is not the place for City Council to make the decision for us on whether we choose to smoke or not. You are overstepping your power. The City Council instead should be focusing on more pressing matters like, the increasing crime rate in our city or how to cut our property taxes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Easton", enclosed within a rectangular border.

Richard Easton
1360 University Ave W.
Saint Paul, MN 55104

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Members of the St. Paul City Council,

I am writing you in regards to the proposed ban on menthol products in St. Paul convenience stores. I understand that this is a well-intentioned piece of legislation, but the truth is that this overreach will harm more people than it protects.

My family runs a small car dealership so I can attest to the fact that well-intentioned legislation can have detrimental impact on small, family run businesses. Convenience stores are owned and operated by families like my own and when you target a product that they depend on for up to 40 percent of their sales, it is going to devastate them.

I must also point out that the City Council is overreaching. It is not the government's place to tell adults what products they can and cannot buy, especially when this product has been legal since our nations founding.

You will kill implementing a piece of feel-good legislation. There are a lot of things the City Council could be working on to improve this city, try focusing on those things instead of taking away our rights.

Thank you for your time.

Bill Grant

1555 Selby Ave #250
St. Paul MN 55104

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2017

CITY CLERK

September 20, 2017

Dear City Council Members,

I recently moved back home, after a five-year hiatus on the West Coast, to our beloved city of St. Paul. First thing we do is register to vote and, of course, pick up our Pioneer Press down on the corner.

What has happened to our St. Paul City Council? Do you mean to tell me that our city elected officials are wasting time and resources on trying to restrict small-business owners from selling certain legal tobacco items to its citizens? What? The Friendliest City in America wants to restrict the rights of others by banning a legal product because it contains menthol? Are they trying to help us help ourselves?

I would like to make a suggestion to this esteemed body of elected officials. Instead of chasing small-business owners out of town (you know, the ones who help pay the bills here) why don't they focus on bringing them in, and maybe work on this exploding tax rate hike, our high crime rate and our failing public schools?

**Pat Igo
202 7th St W
St. Paul, MN 55102**

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102


RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Members of the St. Paul City Council,

Don't rush the vote on menthol tobacco. In our social media society, it is common practice to toss out half-researched ideas in hopes that it solves a problem. This doesn't work.

We have to see the whole picture of the menthol ban before we rush it through the city council. A task force with all of the impacted parties would allow the city to see what will actually happen if we ban menthol. Do not rush a vote on an issue you don't fully understand just because it feels like the right thing to do.

Thank you for considering,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Jasin".

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Saint Paul City Council members,

The issues facing St. Paul include things like: sex trafficking, racial inequality, rise in violent crimes, crumbling city streets, a heroin and opioid epidemic, maintain clean air and water, and for some reason the sale of a legal product.

Crushing small businesses is not going to help improve the city of St. Paul. What will improve our city is City Council focusing on the more pressing issues St. Paul is facing.

Our city is faced with a heroin and opioid epidemic so why isn't City Council spending their valuable time and effort addressing this? City Council needs to concentrate on what matters.

Thank you,

Patricia Kemper

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Members of the St. Paul City Council,

I'm not sure if the menthol ban is the best move for the city. Neither are you. Do you know if it will actually be effective? Do you know if cops will start stopping smokers? Do you know if convenience stores will layoff workers to make up profit losses?

If you don't know the answers to those questions, you better figure that out before you vote. A task force with representatives from every group will be able to help you answer those questions. All you have to do is give them the time and listen to them discuss the issue with an open mind. We all want what is best for the city, but without the task force we really don't know what that is.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine K. Loesch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'E'.

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Saint Paul City Council members,

I am fed up with the way things are being done in St. Paul. The City Council is attempting to take away the rights of consumers to buy and sell legal products. This is a clear overreach of power by the council, adding to an already long list of trepidations.

Major crime is up 17 percent, shots fired are up 67 percent, and 911 calls are up 6 percent. This is where the city's focus needs to be.

Only 1 percent of St. Paul residents think that the sale of legal menthol products is the most important issue for officials to spend valuable time on.

This ordinance has been rushed through the process, I am urging the city council to at least consider forming a task force made up of a wide range of members to get a clear understanding of the consequences this ordinance will have on our community.

Sincerely,

Terry McMahon

1783 Princeton Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Saint Paul City Council members,

We need to focus on what matters to our city. Banning a legal product is not where our time and effort should be spent. With crime on the rise and the body count growing each day we need to let our police force do what they are trained to do, not hunt down illegal menthol smokers. St. Paul tobacco users do not need to become suspects on a long list of people the police are already trying to take care of.

I understand that City Council is trying to improve the health of its citizens but that responsibility needs to fall in the laps of each individual. As adults we have the right to make our own decisions when it comes to our health. City Council should focus on more pressing issues.

I hope you will reconsider this ordinance and assign a task force to study the implications this ban will have on law enforcement.

Thank You,



12728 Diamond Drive
Burnsville MN 55337

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Saint Paul City Council members,

The ban on menthol tobacco products is a massive government overreach that not only limits personal freedom, but also levies a serious economic threat for small business owners throughout the city. St. Paul City Council has begun to see themselves as elected parents to their constituents, rather than an elected officials.

There are many arenas for the City Council Members to get involved; the growing number of violent crimes taking place, sex trafficking, our crumbling city streets, and our failing schools. The City Council should stay out of is citizens' personal health and appoint a task force to study the impact of their overreach.

Thank you for considering,

Bob Paradise
1303 Beechwood Pl
St. Paul, MN 55116

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

You are about to rush a vote on menthol tobacco and the only clear reason you are doing so is to feel good about yourselves. You don't know if it will keep cigarettes out of the hands of kids. You don't know if stores will close as a result of the loss of profits. You don't know if there will be increased police interaction with smokers. The problem is that there is a lot you don't know and you are going to vote anyway.

But you don't have to vote on this right away. You can choose to take the time to do your own research or to form a task force. No reasonable voter in this city would complain about government officials taking their time to fully understand the effects of their legislation. Please take the time to understand what is best for the city and make sure that the rewards of the menthol ban outweigh the risks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jewel Bickert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2017
CITY CLERK

Members of the St. Paul City Council,

I don't think you want to see convenience stores close. I don't think you want to see police interaction with smokers either. I know that you want to keep tobacco out of the hands of children. The problem is that you do not know if banning menthol will do any of these things.

This ban can have a serious economic backlash and there is no guarantee that it keeps even one kid away from cigarettes. Take the time to see if this ban is actually going to solve any problems because it will definitely start new problems for storeowners and police officers. Make a task force. Listen to what they have to say. Vote for what is best for the city. That isn't too much to ask of our city government.

Hope you will consider.

Sincerely,

Kathie Roberts

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2017

CITY CLERK

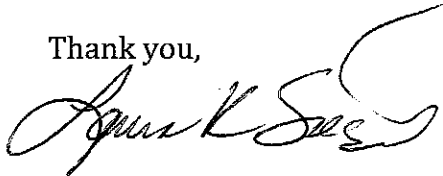
City Council
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Room 310
St. Paul, MN 55102

St. Paul City Council,

I see the good intentions of the menthol ban, but I don't think the city is seeing the full picture of what this ban could mean. Many groups will be impacted—not just smokers. Storeowners will lose business. Police officers will have to enforce the policy. Non-smokers will face higher prices in their convenience stores.

The best way forward is to make sure the city sees the full picture of the effects of the ban. A task force made up of all of the groups that have a stake in this issue would give the city enough background to make the best choice on the future of menthol. We can't rush through policies we don't fully understand. Don't make that mistake.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann K. Suss".