

Pa Yee 1100 Virginia : Don't ban menthol

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Gary Johnson (No address given): "Sick of the liberal bullsh\*t"

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Nicholas Hughes, student at St. Thomas: opposed to menthol ban.

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James (no address): you're targeting specific groups of people, and making it a white/black thing and its racist.

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James from Marshall Stop in St Paul: would like to see the age raised to 21 instead of banning, customers can drive one mile further. He's a business owner on Marshall.

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Dear Council President Stark and Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

My name is Dr. Sylvia Amos and I serve as President of the Women's Auxiliary of the Minnesota State Baptist Convention, Inc. The convention is comprised of 30 churches, nine of which are located in St. Paul. Our mission is to work with the youth and women of our convention churches.

I am writing to let you know that we support the proposed ordinance to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to adult-only tobacco stores.

The Women's Auxiliary has been educating our young people about the harms of menthol for a couple of years. We have done informational sessions and presentations at basketball tournaments, youth choir meetings, youth group meetings, and the like. This is in addition to educating the various auxiliaries that are a part of the Minnesota State Baptist Convention.

Faith leaders, at all levels of the Minnesota State Baptist Convention, Inc., are supportive of restricting where menthol can be sold to prevent our children and grandchildren from suffering the same fate we have. Tobacco use is still the primary cause of preventable death and disease, claiming the lives of over 6,300 Minnesota adults annually and incurring \$3.2 billion annually in medical costs. Tobacco use is a major contributor to the three leading causes of death among African Americans—heart disease, cancer and stroke. According to the CDC, African Americans are more likely to die from smoking-related diseases than whites. My mother started smoking at the age of 11 and died of lung cancer at 71, a direct result of smoking menthol cigarettes for nearly 60 years!

Menthol is the number one tool that the tobacco industry uses to addict our young people. It helps the poison go down easier. The question is, do we give them the arsenic or do we take it away or do we make it harder for them to get? Making it easier and more accessible to obtain, in my opinion, is tantamount to assisted suicide. Yes, I know it is a legal, yet lethal, substance. Then I ask, is it legal to assist someone in killing themselves? Menthol tobacco products are a serious public health threat.

I urge you to pass this legislation, without delay. The health of our community is dependent upon all of us doing the right thing.

Respectfully,

Dr. Sylvia Amos, President, Women's Auxiliary

Minnesota State Baptist Convention, Inc.

[www.minnesotastatebaptistconvention.com](http://www.minnesotastatebaptistconvention.com)

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Dear Cnclm Thao, Banning the sale of all flavored menthol cigarettes in addition to mint and wintergreen dip 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, Catharine Rodgers 888 Concordia Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104-5418

Pam Guthrie 1546 Selby Ave Lowr Saint Paul, MN 55104-7374

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Hi,

You need to stop impinging on our rights to smoking. First you put us outside. Now you want to control what we buy. We are in a free country and have rights also. Focus in more on important things like taking bikes off the roads with vehicles. What if a tire blows or a tirod goes out. That driver has no control and the person on the bike has no protection. You should widen the side walks for them, so in case a vehicle has an unplanned accident, everyone is still safe. Putting an unprotected person on the road with moving vehicles makes no sense.

Victoria Weinberger

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Councilmember Thao,

I was encouraged by an ad at Big Top Liquor today to contact you regarding my thoughts on the menthol cigarette restrictions. It claims it's from a local organization and that it will cause harm to local businesses. However, upon closer inspection I noticed this ad was paid for by Big Tobacco, including Philip Morris!

Philip Morris does not have the interests of our city at mind; their only interest is to advance their corporate interest, hook children onto tobacco products, and profit off of them while slowly killing them. Councilmember Thao, please pass these restrictions on menthol tobacco sales!

Jeb Rach

16XX Sherburne Ave

Saint Paul MN 55104

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Good Afternoon Honorable Mayor Coleman & City Council Members Dai Thao, Rebecca Noecker, Chris Tolbert, Russ Stark, Amy Brendmoen, Dan Bostrom and Jane Prince,

I have attached a letter encouraging you to support the ordinance to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to Adult-Only tobacco stores. Since 1995, Stairstep has convened an ecumenical consortium of African American pastors and their congregations in the Twin Cities encouraging them to move outside their church walls and traditional denominational barriers to impact the practical issues facing our people. His Works United is a network with a reach of over 100 congregations in the Twin Cities and throughout the state spanning the major denominations and non-denominational ministries. Our Policy Board consists of Rev. Dr. Charles Gill, President, St. Paul Black Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; Bishop Richard D. Howell, Diocesan Bishop, Pentecostal Assemblies of the World; Rev. Dr. Alphonse Reff, Presiding Elder, St. Paul/Mpls. District AME Church; Rev. Billy Russell, President, MN State Baptist Convention; and Bishop Fred W. Washington, MN Jurisdictional Prelate, Church of God in Christ.

Again, we strongly support this ordinance and encourage your passing on September 27.

Respectfully,

Alfred Babington-Johnson

President & CEO

Stairstep Foundation

sent via Director of Programs, Sylvia Amos



VALUES, ENTERPRISE, COMMUNITY LIFE

September 14, 2017

Mayor Coleman and Members of the Saint Paul City Council  
15 W Kellogg Blvd #310  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am writing on behalf of His Works United to express our support for the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of menthol tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. His Works United is a broad and powerful ecumenical collaboration of African American churches partnering beyond the walls of our worship centers to bring light and hope to the community.

The health impact and cost of tobacco use in our community is too often overshadowed by other, more immediate challenges like gang violence and drugs. Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death and disease in our community and our state. The use of menthol tobacco is high among African Americans and the harms have been overlooked. Churches across the City of Saint Paul have been involved in "No Menthol Sunday", a national observance day dedicated to educating our congregations about the harmful effects of menthol tobacco products.

The tobacco industry targets young people, and particularly young people of color with menthol-flavored tobacco products. As a result, menthol cigarette use among Minnesota High School smokers has more than doubled since 2000. Tobacco companies add menthol to tobacco products to cool the throat and make them taste better. Menthol cigarettes make it easier to start smoking and harder to stop.

We are thankful the Saint Paul City Council is leading the way by restricting where menthol tobacco products can be sold in Saint Paul. This policy will go a long way to prevent young people in our community from becoming addicted to these products. By taking these products out of Saint Paul stores youth regularly visit, the Saint Paul City Council is helping to prevent another generation from becoming lifelong tobacco users. Thank you for supporting the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Alfred Babington-Johnson, President & CEO  
Stairstep Foundation/His Works United

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

612-521-3110

1404 14th Avenue North · Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411 · Alfred Babington-Johnson · President & CEO  
(Office) 612/521-3110 · (Fax) 612/521-3405 · [www.stairstep.org](http://www.stairstep.org)

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Dear Council member, I have two stores in downtown and am interested in discussing options in regards to the proposed ban on menthol tobacco. Would you have time to discuss this issue with me? I have already sat down with Council member Noecker. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely Charlie Rose, owner Charlie's Convenience store

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Attached please find a letter of support for the ordinance to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to adult-only tobacco shops. Thank you for your leadership on this important public health topic.

Twin Cities Medical Society

1300 Godward Street NE, Suite 2000

Minneapolis, MN 55413

O: 612-362-3799

[tcms@metrodoctors.com](mailto:tcms@metrodoctors.com)

[www.metrodoctors.com](http://www.metrodoctors.com)



September 14, 2017

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

Dear Mayor Coleman and Members of the St Paul City Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Twin Cities Medical Society, a membership organization that represents approximately 4,500 physicians and medical students living and working in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. Advocating for policies that advance public health, including tobacco, is a key part of our organization's mission. Thank you for your support of St. Paul's 2016 ordinance restricting flavored tobacco products to adult-only stores. This policy was a major step toward protecting St. Paul's youth from the harms of tobacco, but our work is not yet done.

For decades the tobacco industry has used menthol tobacco to lure youth into smoking and created serious health inequities by targeting marginalized communities with these flavored products. Including menthol tobacco products in St. Paul's current flavored tobacco regulations would set St. Paul apart as a national leader and protect a generation of kids from becoming addicted to tobacco, which continues to be the leading cause of death and disease in our state.

On behalf of Twin Cities Medical Society, thank you for supporting this bold step to protect the health of St. Paul's residents. We look forward to working with you to protect our city from the harms of menthol tobacco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Hunt".

Matt Hunt, MD  
President of the Twin Cities Medical Society

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Wouldn't leave name or number: Banning won't help the problem, without parents being involved. Just like failing schools. Don't ban menthols.

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Kathy Duresky  
773 Charles Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55104-2721

RECEIVED

SEP 11 2017

COUNCILMEMBER  
DAI THAO

Sep 11, 2017

Council Member Dai Thao  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West  
310-A City Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member Thao,

Our city council should not interfere in my personal life. If I want to continue to smoke menthol cigarettes, it is my privilege. As a fully informed tobacco user, it is my free will option.

My husband and one of my two sons are also cigarette users. Smokers already have restrictions and designated areas where they must go to light up. Before retiring, I was employed at a print shop. If we wanted to smoke, we had to go outside. It was cold in the winter, but I would be outside puffing away nevertheless. Restrictions are fine, but banning what I smoke is infringing on my freedom.

For the convenience, I purchase my cigarettes at a nearby tobacco store. At times, I also purchase menthol tobacco that my husband uses to roll his own cigarettes. These small shops are going to be hit hard financially if menthol smokers go elsewhere for their cigarettes and their tobacco supplies. If menthol is banned, I will still smoke them but will go elsewhere, probably Wisconsin, to buy them. This trip will be over twenty miles for me. Not only will it be inconvenient, but also there will be the added cost of gasoline and state and local government can say 'bye bye' to the tax revenue, too. This proposed ban will hurt many people, and it is unfair. Therefore, you should take action to see that it is not passed.

Your constituent,

Kathy Duresky



Jake Connell  
683 Charles Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55104-2719

Council Member Dai Thao  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West  
310-A City Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member Thao-

A ban on flavored tobacco and menthol cigarettes is unfair to consumers and retailers alike. For around a decade, I have been smoking menthol cigarettes, and an outright ban will force me to travel outside the city limits to buy them. Most likely, many other smokers feel the same way. Another group of people who will see the effects of this ban are the retailers who will lose the sales.

It seems ridiculous that there is another aim targeting tobacco users. When the new Vikings stadium was being built, the government raised the taxes on cigarettes by \$1.50 per pack to help build it. As a Vikings fan, I have been to the stadium and think it is beautiful. However, the stadium has been completed, yet the tax on cigarettes never went down.

Marlboro Menthol Lights are my brand. As a successful hair stylist for the past six years, if I cannot buy them here in St. Paul, I will be forced to travel outside of the city to purchase them. That means I am inconvenienced, and my local store loses the money I \$70 I would have spent. An outright ban is a ridiculous idea. There are other towns that will gladly take the money to sell us our preferred product. This is nothing more than a good way for the city to annoy a large, voting age demographic, and lose tax revenue. Therefore, I ask you to strongly oppose this ridiculous ban.

Yours truly,

Jake Connell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jake', written over a horizontal line.



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Ward 1 received 44 “Beautiful lie, ugly truth” postcards in support of the menthol ban from W1 residents since Weds 9/13/17

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Anonymous voicemail: 9:10 PM 9/19 – Enough is enough, this is ridiculous, you’re trying to take the rights of people to buy what they want.

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