

Judy Lowry, Ward 2 resident, opposes cigarette ban

Ward 1 resident called and said her husband smokes menthol, and they prefer that St. Paul still allow sales of menthol cigarettes.

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. And on the other group of people in my age that also are being introduced to all these tobacco products ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such myself I see cigarette butts , we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter. And ask for older people to buy it for them or they either start picturing and craving a cigarette between their mouths.

The tobacco industry targets diverse neighborhoods, lower socioeconomic, Hispanic families and hispanic kids status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products like for my uncle example ; he started smoking at age of 5 thanks to posters that said "Smoking can make you sing" as we all know smoking does not make you "sing" and makes your throat and lungs in a terrible conditions ; he now has to breath through a tube and speak through a voice box and it's even that obvious in his face that he regrets every single inhale he took through his youth and the rest of his life

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation and we also hope someone would actually be willing to stand up for all the youth are still innocent to these tobacco products and for those who have suffered from them . Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Moncada, Student

September 18 2017

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I've been in this district ever since preschool all the way from High School. I am student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The tobacco industry targets diverse neighborhoods and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products. We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Emily Nila, Student

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The tobacco industry targets children and diverse neighborhoods like mine and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products.

In my own life I had an aunt that had lived in El Salvador, Central America but I never knew her that well as my mother did. She started smoking from the age of 20. She was a mother of 2, Sister to 3, and especially a daughter. She was diagnosed with Lung Cancer at the age of 36 and this affected me terribly but I never knew what to feel because I always thought "I don't know her that well so should I feel sad or not feel anything at all?" She passed away July 2008, a week before my birthday. But this all wouldn't have had happened if she was not addicted to Cigarettes at a young age.

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Byron Sifuentes Flores, Student

[09/18/17]

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The tobacco industry targets diverse neighborhoods like mine and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. Also it wouldn't be nice if you seen a child picking that up .These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products.

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Valdemar Bahena
ALMAS student
henry sibley warriors

Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall

Saint Paul, MN 55102

9/18/17

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The tobacco industry targets diverse neighborhoods and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products.

In my own experience, my older brother has been struggling with tobacco use since he was my age. This affected both me and my family greatly. They specifically targeted my own race, which made me very upset.

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Karely Reyes Alvarado

Student

Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall

Saint Paul, MN 55102

[September 18, 2017]

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

My name is Estreya Velazquez and I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS) at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The tobacco industry targets youth and children from diverse neighborhoods and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products.

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Estreya Velazquez, Student

Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

September, 18

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The tobacco industry targets diverse neighborhoods and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products.

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

David Ibarra

Minneapolis

9-18-17

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I have been going to school in West Saint Paul since preschool and have lived in the city before for a long time. I am writing today on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is strongly dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter.

The tobacco industry targets diverse neighborhoods and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products.

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Anissa Sturdivant, Student

Hi,

I wanted to make sure that you are also hearing for the side of the population that thinks that banning flavored tobacco products that are aimed at kids is a good idea. Please vote to ban these products in spite of load group that wants tobacco for kids.

Ron Betcher

From: Molly Miles [<mailto:mollyjmiles@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 10:59 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: Support for Restricting Menthol tobacco

As your constituent, I urge you to support the city's proposal to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to adult-only tobacco stores. I am a member of the LGBTQ community and I know how heavily it has been targeted by the tobacco industry for decades, along with African Americans, Native Americans, women and youth. Menthol makes it easier to start smoking and harder to stop smoking. This further deepens the harm caused by tobacco and worsens health disparities. In the LGBTQ community, 36 percent of adult smokers and 70 percent of youth smokers use menthol tobacco. I was happy to see Saint Paul be a leader and take a stand by restricting the sale of other flavored tobacco products last year. It's now time to restrict the most popular flavor of all, menthol. This will help our youth lead productive, healthy lives without the shadow of a deadly addiction. Will you be supporting this ordinance?

Molly Miles

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [<mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com>] **On Behalf Of** Jerome Norris

Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 7:40 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Letter to St. Paul City Council Members

Dear Cnclm Brendmoen, 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, Jerome Norris 1299 Saint Albans St N Saint Paul, MN 55117-4143

9/14/17 Debra Langsly (ward 6 constituent) left a voicemail asking CM Bostrom to say NO to the Menthol ban.

9/14/17 Robert Becker left message to say NO to Menthol ban – no address given.

9/14/17 Mr Schultz left message asking CM Bostrom to say NO to Menthol ban.

9/14/19 2 unidentified callers left voicemail asking CM Bostrom to say NO to Menthol ban.

Dear Cnclm Bostrom,

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,

Eric Anderson

1362 Winchell St

Saint Paul, MN 55106-2110

Members of Saint Paul City Council

15 W. Kellogg Blvd., #310

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor and Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Leading Individuals and Families Together to End Poverty (LIFT). LIFT is working in Saint Paul to eradicate poverty through active participation in public policy at the local, state and federal levels of government. For the past year and a half, LIFT has worked to educate the community about the influences of the tobacco industry and raise awareness about the harms of menthol tobacco in our community. LIFT is dedicated to improving the well-being of youth, specifically at-risk African American youth.

In our work, we hear personal stories of youth struggling to quit smoking or those who have lost family members to tobacco-related diseases. Many of the people we work with represent communities of color and those most impacted by the harms of tobacco and tobacco industry targeting. African Americans smoke menthol cigarettes at higher rates and have a much harder time quitting. Menthol masks the harshness of smoke, and studies show that the tobacco industry has manipulated menthol levels to attract younger smokers.

The Saint Paul City Council led the way in 2016 when it restricted fruit- and candy-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. We hope we can count on you to be the leaders again and take the next step by treating mint and menthol flavored tobacco products in the same way. These products threaten the lives of our community and we shouldn't stand for it anymore!

As an organization, we believe improving the health of the community will also improve the wealth of the community. Please prioritize the lives and futures of our young people over tobacco industry profits. Thank you for your consideration.

Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council,

15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City
Hall
55102

Saint Paul, MN

9/18/2017

Dear Mayor Coleman, Council President Stark, and members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am Robert Hanson and today I am writing on behalf of Anglos Latinos Motivados a Superarse (ALMAS), a student group that I lead at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. ALMAS is dedicated to serving and promoting the health of the community. Many students in ALMAS live, work and play in St. Paul, and as such, we urge you to support the proposal that removes menthol tobacco from stores where kids can enter. Whether children can or cannot purchase tobacco is not the point. We assume that storeowners are being responsible. We do know that children are influenced by what they see and we know that they are being targeted. In my own experience, my then 8-year-old son, after years of experience knowing about the anti-tobacco campaigns that my high school group has done, saw some Dulce de Leche flavored e-cigarette juice. He knew what it was, the dangers of it, and still wanted to try it. Dulce de Leche flavor specifically targets the Latino youth population. Menthol is a flavoring just like Dulce de Leche

The tobacco industry targets diverse neighborhoods and those of lower socioeconomic status with advertising and they provide easy accessibility for youth to pick up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many young people are using, and becoming addicted to, these deadly products.

I, and my group hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Robert Hanson

ALMAS Director

7618 Sherwood Rd

Woodbury, MN 55125

From: Laura Zelle [<mailto:laurazelle@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 11:47 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: regulating menthol tobacco request

Dear Council member Tolbert:

I live in St. Paul Ward 3 and am an educator and parent of two teenagers. I have known several people who have suffered from diseases relating to smoking and I am very eager to see that my community does all that it can to reduce the harm caused by tobacco.

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.

Now comes the next step, to treat menthol tobacco products the same way that St. Paul treats the cotton candy and grape flavored ones. Menthol tobacco products, including chew and e-cigs, are uniquely attractive to youth because menthol makes it easier for kids to start using because of its numbing and cooling effect. Menthol is the most common tobacco starter for kids. For that reason alone, St. Paul needs to restrict access to all flavored tobacco products, and that includes menthol.

I hope the St. Paul City Council will soon follow Minneapolis and pass an ordinance to regulate where menthol tobacco products can be sold in order to protect our youth.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Laura Zelle

635 Mt. Curve Blvd.

St. Paul 55116

Amy Alch

1828 Montreal Ave.

Called 9/19 0 - Supports menthol restrictions – science shows that if you don't start then kids won't be faced with health crisis later in life. It's important to stop people from starting smoking in the first place, and the product will still be available for people to purchase. Also, please don't delay the vote. This can be done now to immediately start to prevent young people from starting to smoke.

From: Sylvia Amos [<mailto:sylviaamos04@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:24 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward1; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward7

Cc: Coleman, Chris (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Ordinance to Restrict the Sale of Menthol Tobacco

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.

From: Harry Lando [<mailto:lando001@umn.edu>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:41 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: RE: Menthol ordinance

Dear Councilmember Tolbert: I am writing to you both as your constituent (492 Montrose Lane 55116) and as a longtime tobacco control researcher and advocate. I have spent my entire career (45 years in academia) working to help addicted smokers to overcome their addiction. I had the privilege of being a senior scientific editor of the landmark US Surgeon General's 1988 Report on Nicotine Addiction and was a member of the panel that produced the US tobacco dependence treatment guidelines. Currently I chair the committee that determines the venue for the triennial World Conferences on Tobacco OR Health. There is strong evidence that menthol facilitates youth starting to smoke and makes it harder for them to quit. We owe it to our youth to do what we can to protect them from initiating what all too often becomes a severe dependence resulting in serious illness and death. Internal tobacco industry documents reveal that the tobacco industry has a long history of using flavors to reduce the harshness of their products. Menthol is especially effective in this regard by cooling and numbing the throat. Currently, menthol is the only flavor still on the market.

Saint Paul has the authority to take effective action to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to adult-only tobacco stores. With this ordinance you can help protect young people from what for many could become a lifetime of addiction.

Sincerely,

Harry A. Lando

492 Montrose Lane

Saint Paul 55116-1133

Distinguished International Professor

University of Minnesota

School of Public Health

From: Tonya Draughn [<mailto:tonyadraughn@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 2:03 PM

To: Kelley, Pattie (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Fwd: Tobacco Ordinance for St Paul-We are counting on you!!!

Hello my apologizes for sending this over to you all again. I was told by Pattie Kelly to send this over again including my name and address so that this letter can be used as part of the public record. Thank you for allowing me to resend.

Tonya Draughn

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tonya Draughn <tonyadraughn@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2017 at 9:25 PM

Subject: Tobacco Ordinance for St Paul-We are counting on you!!!

September 18, 2017

Members of Saint Paul City Council

15 W. Kellogg Blvd., #310

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor and Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Leading Individuals and Families Together to End Poverty (LIFT). LIFT is working in Saint Paul to eradicate poverty through active participation in public policy at the local, state and federal levels of government. For the past year and a half, LIFT has worked to educate the community about the influences of the tobacco industry and raise awareness about the harms of menthol tobacco in our community. LIFT is dedicated to improving the well-being of youth, specifically at-risk African American youth.

In our work, we hear personal stories of youth struggling to quit smoking or those who have lost family members to tobacco-related diseases. Many of the people we work with represent communities of color and those most impacted by the harms of tobacco and tobacco industry targeting. African Americans smoke menthol cigarettes at higher rates and have a much harder time quitting. Menthol masks the harshness of smoke, and studies show that the tobacco industry has manipulated menthol levels to attract younger smokers.

The Saint Paul City Council led the way in 2016 when it restricted fruit- and candy-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. We hope we can count on you to be the leaders again and take the next step by treating mint and menthol flavored tobacco products in the same way. These products threaten the lives of our community and we shouldn't stand for it anymore!

As an organization, we believe improving the health of the community will also improve the wealth of the community. Please prioritize the lives and futures of our young people over tobacco industry profits. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tonya Draughn
Executive Director
LIFT to End Poverty
990 Ashland Ave
St Paul MN 55104

From: Sylvia Amos [<mailto:sylviaamos04@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:24 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: Coleman, Chris (CI-StPaul) <chris.coleman@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ordinance to Restrict the Sale of Menthol Tobacco

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.

PHONE CALLS received by Ward 7:

Steve Hayne, 9XX Conway is in favor of the Menthol ordinance. Please vote for it.

Dave Hawkins, Ward 7, has been smoking menthol for 40 years. Is disabled and can not get to a tobacco store. Please have some compassion for those that smoke. Kids can't buy them, there are already laws to prevent that. Please don't vote for it.

Mary Trzcianko, 15XX Beech Street, Against the Tobacco ordinance. Might as well ban all cigarette sales.

Ben Mattson, 16XX Minnehaha Ave. Against ordinance. This is government overreach. He doesn't like to smell smoke, but still thinks even banning smoking in restaurants has gone too far.

Al Hopp, 16XX Upper Afton Road. Opposed to Menthol ordinance, this has gone too far.

Dale Jeffers, 16XX Ross Why do you want to ban menthol? It is ridiculous. Even if Holiday is next door to a school, people should choose how they spend their money. Vote no, this country is going downhill.

Linda Ruiz, 16XX Suburban Ave, Furious that this is being considered . It is prejudice against people who smoke menthol because you are not allowing all stores to sell it.

Keith Buffney, 20XX Glenridge, Opposed to Menthol Ordinance. Government should not be involved

Anonymous St. Paul resident, Received postcard in the mail. Vote against the Menthol ban. Does not care if kids smoke, that is not our problem.

Virgina Shmeyer, St. Paul, Don't vote for this ordinance. We are already taxed and punished enough for smoking. If Menthol is targeting black people you might as well ban Chinese food for targeting Asians and fast food for targeting the obese.

Katrin Sayed, 4XX Luella, Opposed to the ordinance, it is not right to take away freedom of choice and not fair to restrict products to certain stores.

Perry Gear, Cottage Grove, opposes this ordinance, you don't have the right to do this. You have taken enough rights away already

Dorian Dial, 11XX Mounds Blvd, Opposed to tobacco ban the City Council should focus on crime and homelessness instead.

James Hawila, Gas station owner, 5057 Marshall Ave. It is not fair to ban Menthol from convenience stores, when customers can drive one mile to Falcon Heights or Roseville to purchase menthol. Raising

the minimum age to 21 would be more fair. He and his employees are responsible, they don't even sell energy drinks to minors, they are harmful too, so are cheeseburgers, but they are not regulated.

Andrea Mow, St. Paul, Opposes City taking away Menthol cigarettes
Michael Trost, 8XX Lake Street N., not in favor or proposed menthol ordinance

Anonymous Ward 7 resident, does not believe menthol should be banned. It is not a big deal an is not targeted towards children.

Garrett Ninow, 21XX E 4th Street, Please don't regulate tobacco.

Layne Bellamy, St. Paul, opposes ban on menthol sales

Paul, 12XX E Minnehaha, Opposes menthol restrictions
Frankie Anderson, Ward 7, Does not know where else to get Marlboro menthol.
Debra Gallagan, 19XX Nortonia, Opposed to proposed tobacco ordinance

WARD 7 HAS RECEIVED 32 POST CARDS:

Dear Councilmember Prince
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



Councilmember Jane Prince
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
320-C City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

**BEAUTIFUL LIE
UGLY TRUTH**
ABOUT MENTHOL TOBACCO

www.beautifuluglytruth.org

EMAIL

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [<mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com>] **On Behalf Of** Barbara Miller
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 3:13 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject: Please OPPOSE harmful regulations in the Twin Cities

Dear Cnclm Prince, 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, Barbara Miller 1642 Conway St Saint Paul, MN 55106-5926

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [<mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com>] **On Behalf Of** Tarek Khatib
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 12:22 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please OPPOSE harmful regulations in the Twin Cities

Dear Cnclm Prince, Hello Jane Prince, As a local business owner and resident of St. Paul, I m writing to respectfully express my concern for the St. Paul flavor ban. My store stands to lose approximately \$287,313 in revenue annually based on my menthol, wintergreen, and mint volume alone. These customers also spend money elsewhere in my store, loss of market basket sales would result in a further

loss of \$383,084. That is a total loss of \$670,397 in revenue annually. This ordinance will cause more harm than good in our community in multiple ways, including: " Driving business to surrounding communities that do not have the same tobacco restrictions. " Providing surrounding businesses an unfair competitive advantage by banning my business from selling the products adult consumers desire. " Opening up an opportunity for criminals to sell banned tobacco products illegally on the black market, which can result in an increase in crime, violence and youth access to tobacco products. " Loss of jobs for local St. Paul residents Additionally, these ordinances limit the freedoms and choices of legal adults who can get married, serve our country, and vote for leaders, such as yourself. While I understand the concern of youth tobacco use, please rest assured we do not sell tobacco to minors. In fact, our staff goes through extensive training to keep tobacco products away from underage individuals. We are doing our part to keep tobacco out of the hands of our community s youth by not selling to minors. I am in favor of any laws that will keep children from using tobacco, but I can t support an ordinance that doesn't support my livelihood. For the sake of St. Paul s community and local businesses, please vote no on September 20, 2017. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Tarek Khatib Sincerely, Tarek Khatib 1390 3rd St E Saint Paul, MN 55106-5827

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com] On Behalf Of Wanda Bublitz

Sent: Friday, September 8, 2017 4:14 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Letter to St. Paul City Council Members

Dear Cnclm Prince, 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, Wanda Bublitz 1797 Old Hudson Rd Saint Paul, MN 55119-4320

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com] **On Behalf Of** Jeff Rardin
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 7:47 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Letter to St. Paul City Council Members

Dear Cnclm Prince, 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, Jeff Rardin 1727 Wilson Ave Saint Paul, MN 55106-5933

From: Charlie Rose [<mailto:charliesconvenience@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2017 9:29 AM
To: Prince, Jane (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Re: Menthol Ordinance

Dear Councilmember Prince,

I would appreciate an opportunity to discuss a program that will be mutually beneficial. I can make time this week if possible. The following week I will be having hernia surgery and not be able to schedule anything. If this is not an option, i could communicate via email but would prefer to meet.

Thank you for being open to discussing this serious issue.

Sincerely, Charlie Rose, owner Charlie's Convenience Store



District 6 Planning Council

Saint Paul's North End

171 Front Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55117
651-488-4485 fax: 651-488-0343
district6ed@dist6pc.org

September 18, 2017

Saint Paul City Council President Russ Stark,
Councilmembers Amy Brendmoen, Dai Thao, Rebecca Noecker, Jane Prince, Dan Bostrom, Chris Tolbert:

District 6 Planning Council met on September 5, 2017, and discussed the proposed amendments to chapter 324: banning menthol-type tobacco products from being sold in stores other than tobacco shops.

No one denies smoking negatively affects an individual's health and is a public health hazard. No one wants their children to smoke. We know that most people who become addicted to cigarettes begin smoking in their teenage years. We also know tobacco companies target marketing of menthol products to youth and communities of color.

It is difficult to oppose any measure attempting to decrease the number of youth who smoke; however, we are not convinced this ordinance would accomplish that goal. Data show measures such as increasing the cost of cigarettes and raising the legal age to purchase tobacco are effective strategies to decrease youth smoking. Anything short of this would seem to punish businesses, especially small businesses, that are currently selling a product legally and would incentivize the expansion of tobacco shops to take advantage of this ordinance. Considering these factors, we cannot support the proposed ordinance in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Rich Holst

Rich Holst
Chair, District 6 Planning Council

Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers

September 18, 2017

Council President Russ Stark
Council Member Dai Thao
Council Member Rebecca Noecker
Council Member Chris Tolbert
Council Member Amy Brendmoen
Council Member Dan Bostrom
Council Member Jane Prince
St. Paul City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Menthol Cigarette and Mint and Wintergreen Tobacco Ordinance

The retail trade associations that comprise the Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers and our respective retail store members located in St. Paul believe that it is vitally important to thoughtfully and thoroughly consider many questions that are raised by the proposed ordinance to prohibit the sale of menthol cigarettes plus mint and wintergreen tobacco products, except in tobacco-only shops.

The information provided to the St. Paul City Council by advocacy groups that are lobbying in favor of imposing restrictions on menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products is insufficient to support adoption of these restrictions. The information is not sufficient because these advocates have failed to consider the following issues:

1. The impact of the proposed sales restrictions on neighborhoods and communities in St. Paul. For example, these impacts would include such matters as restricted access to food and grocery staples, retail employee job security, and crime related to an illegal underground market in restricted tobacco products.
2. The health impact of restricting the sale of mint and wintergreen smokeless tobacco and snus products.
3. The overall health impact on St. Paul residents because the proposed ordinance does not ban the possession or use of menthol cigarettes nor mint and wintergreen tobacco products.
4. The actual economic and health impact of the flavored tobacco ban enacted by the City of St. Paul in April of 2016.
5. The projected economic impact on St. Paul retailers that would no longer be

permitted to sell menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products. The information provided to St. Paul City Council members by these advocates in a two-page document titled "The Potential Impact of a Menthol Restriction on Convenience Stores" is inaccurate and misleading regarding retail sales, retail profits, and market share of menthol, mint and wintergreen. There needs to be a reconciliation of the differences between the advocate's information and a new scientific economic impact study of restricting menthol, mint and wintergreen tobacco product sales in a major Twin cities municipality completed for the Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers by Management Science Associates.

6. The future impact on Minnesota's state budget regarding cigarette and tobacco excise tax revenue collections due to citywide menthol cigarette and mint and wintergreen tobacco product sales restrictions.

Given the importance of these issues and the need for accurate information on which to base such a significant policy decision, the Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers is requesting that the St. Paul City Council consider appointing a task force to research these issues and consider solutions based on verifiable and agreed upon information and data. This task force should include representatives of the city council, health related organizations, retailers, retail trade associations, consumers, and others including various experts whom could offer insight into the issue of menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and this request to appoint a task force to study the issue of menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products.

Sincerely,

Lance Klatt, Executive Director
Minnesota Service Station Association

Jamie Pfuhl, President
Minnesota Grocers Association

Kevin Thoma, Executive Director
Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Association

Thomas Briant, Executive Director
National Association of Tobacco Outlets

Bruce Nustad, President
Minnesota Retailers Association



September 16, 2017

Mayor Coleman and Members of the Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

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

On behalf of Open Cities Health Center, I fully support the menthol ordinance proposed in Saint Paul.

In addition, the board of Directors of Open Cities has also unanimously supported this work and it's intent.

Open Cities is a nonprofit community health center that has been serving thousands of people in Saint Paul since 1967. As a federally qualified health center our patients are often low-income, uninsured and underinsured patients, who bear a great burden of disease caused from tobacco use and nicotine addiction.

Tobacco use greatly contributes to the health disparities we see in our community. Because menthol tobacco is harder to quit and is used by more than 80% of African American smokers, menthol contributes greatly to these disparities. Most of our patients who smoke want to quit, but it is very difficult and those who use menthol struggle even more.

With the proposed ordinance, you have the power to stem the terrible pattern of addiction, disease and death we see in our clinic every day. Your vote to restrict the sale of menthol to adult-only tobacco shops will do more to prevent disease and reduce health disparities than all of our doctors can do in their lifetime.

Please vote to support the menthol ordinance. Doing so will protect the next generation from a lifetime of addiction and disease.

Thank you

James C. Platten
CEO/Executive Director
Open Cities Health Center

Menthol Ordinance Change – Tues. 9/19/17

Please add to public record these W5 telephone calls/voice-mails:

Rev. Daryl Spence

Ward 5

Supports menthol restriction

Linda Johnson

--8 Burr St – Ward 5

Against ban on Menthol and flavored cigarettes. Bans are un-American

Lynn Kirschner

Ward 5

Against banning menthol and wintergreen favors

Ron Krey – Ward 5

Opposes menthol tobacco ordinance change

Melinda Zamora

118- Albemarle St – Ward 5

Against menthol restriction

James Hawila

20—Marshall Ave.

Owner of gas station with 4 employees who rely on him for employment. If enacted will have to cut their hours. He recommends raising legal age to 21. Not fair for Saint Paul to enact legislation when neighboring cities are not. He doesn't even sell energy drinks to under 18 year olds. Legislation changed to allow liquor stores to be open on Sundays. Looking a legalizing marijuana. This legislation doesn't make sense. He asks for council to vote against.

Linda Wall

Against Ordinance Change regarding Menthol

Michael

Smoker, government can't tell him what kind of cigarette he can purchase with his hard-earned money.

Vote against.

Jean Forester

Professor Emeritus, School of Public Health

Urges support for the proposed ordinance change. Very important

Note: Ward 5 received "6" Anonymous phone calls against menthol ordinance change

Note: Ward 5 received "22" postcards in support of menthol ordinance change

TO: St. Paul City Council Members

FROM: Vivian Jenkins Nelsen

RE: City Council Menthol Vote Tomorrow

DATE: 19 September 2017

I recently testified in support of a proposal to restrict menthol tobacco sales to adult-only stores in Minneapolis. St. Paul is now considering a similar proposal, and other cities are sure to follow.

When communities look to restrict menthol, one objection always comes up. The objection is, "Menthols are the cigarettes of Black people, so this proposal is racist."

You read that right. Here is a policy that will reduce smoking, save lives, improve health and protect pocketbooks in African American communities. And some people dare to say that's racist.

Who says this? Certainly the tobacco companies do. It's no mystery why. Menthols are some of the top-selling cigarettes in the country. I've heard them called the lifeline of the tobacco industry. When menthol restrictions come up, the tobacco companies are first in line to fight them. The reason is, they know a policy like this will work. It will keep tobacco away from kids in our communities, and make it easier for adults to make healthy choices. The harder they fight against it, the clearer that is.

But you may have heard others saying it. Before this issue came up in Minneapolis, I was listening to a show on the radio. The guests were introduced as "civil rights leaders" – which carries a lot of weight in the Black community. But they were spouting the same objections as Big Tobacco: menthol restrictions are racist, they're "a ban on Black smoking," they're another excuse for police to target Black men.

Well, a couple weeks later, the same show came clean: those "leaders" were in fact paid by R.J. Reynolds, maker of Newport menthol cigarettes, to spread misinformation. In fact, the menthol policy isn't a ban, there's no penalty on the buyer of the products, and there is absolutely no police enforcement component.

This is shocking, but also predictable. You see, it's part of a long game Big Tobacco's been playing, and Black people are the pawns. In the middle of the 20th Century, they decided menthol cigarettes would be "Black cigarettes." They put African Americans in ads, and placed those ads in Black neighborhoods and in Black magazines. The tobacco trials of the 1990s revealed how they researched us. Internal tobacco documents note that Black men associate menthol with "good taste, style and masculine strength" and how "impactful" and "effective" advertising to "Black young adult smokers" could make that preference even stronger.

I remember it happening. Even into the 1980s, they would hand out free menthols in our neighborhoods. Minty, clean-tasting . . . and easy to smoke. The cigarette companies were everybody's friend.

But when you think about it, it goes back even further – hundreds of years. It started when the first tobacco growers kidnapped Africans to pick the tobacco. Enslaved us, for tobacco. We're still enslaved to tobacco. No wonder the disease burden from smoking today is greater for us than for the rest of the population.

Regarding the proposal in St. Paul, I say it's about time. It's about time somebody asked, "Why is it 88 percent of Black smokers smoke menthols . . . compared to only 26 percent of white smokers?" It's about time somebody realizes that tobacco addiction is something the cigarette companies have done to us, done on purpose.

It's about time our elected leaders wake up to how the tobacco industry preys on our people – Black people. There's another famous quote from a Reynolds executive who said, "We reserve the right to smoke for the young, the poor, the Black and the stupid." That shows the contempt they have for us, and decent people everywhere should do whatever we can to stop them.

Sincerely,

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen