

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.

From: Mike Brady [<mailto:mikeb55102@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:03 PM
To: #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_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Menthol & Carry Out containers

I could probably do the research on what your platforms were when campaigning for this office. I highly doubt that *cigarettes* and *carry out* food containers were on any of your agendas that you publicly spoke about. You now seem to have your own private agendas as well as those of big lobby organizations. You are now stepping all over small business owners on proposals that will do no good too anyone. Menthol cigarettes will always be available and the ban on certain food containers will result in nothing except stepping on small businesses.

Where, may I ask, did your constituents cry out for banning menthol cigarettes.

Our streets are a disgrace, our public schools are nothing more than large 'day care' facilities, students are failing to meet minimum standards, you are spending beyond our means, you are raising taxes on all residents and business owners, etc. You are a group of shameful politicians exercising delusional moral superiority and attempting to control personal choice. The health groups that are petitioning you are the same ones that are writing prescriptions for opioids. And you want to ban menthol cigs?!! Preposterous.

You are failing to meet the standards of guiding this city in the manner in which you were elected. You are representing yourselves, not your constituents.

Mike Brady

From: John Wheeler [<mailto:j.wheelman@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:14 PM
To: #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_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; ward7@ci.st.paul.mn.us; publisher@pioneerpress.com
Subject: New ordinances, old ordinances, et al.

Elected Officials:

I write to express my thoughts on several topics, as follows:

- no bans on to-go packaging for restaurants, cafes, or any other businesses. Needless rule.
- no ban on menthol or other flavored tobacco products being sold in venues other than what is currently allowed.
- no more money spent on bikeways, bike lanes, trails, crosswalks, etc. For far too long, the vocal minority has somehow convinced you to spend tax dollars on these idiotic projects.
- no more money spent on push-button posts at controlled intersections. Again, a waste of tax dollars.

I could continue with so many incompetent actions of you as council and Coleman as mayor, but have work to do to be able to afford the taxes you impose. I do support a ban on fag flags being flown on the city flagposts, esp. the Wabasha Street bridge and do call for you to remove all declarations that St. Paul is "America's Most Livable City," as, clearly, it is not.

Menthol public comment:

Phone calls:

Grace Schmidt, 11XX South Winthrop St. Concerned that the City council is focusing on matters that they should not be concerned with. She does not think it is appropriate for the city to regulate the types of tobacco stores can sell. It is an insult to citizens at though they can't think for themselves. City Council should focus on more important items such as:

- Improving the environment for business to operate
- Vandalism & graffiti, such as on the new sound barrier on 94
- Public safety issues

M

ike Stennet, Ward 7, Hopes you don't support the Menthol ordinance.

My name is Cyarra Swanson and I work with young people at the Science Museum of MN.

I am in support of the St. Paul Menthol Ordinance. Youth are greatly affected by this issue and St. Paul should be a leader in our state and do what's right for the people who live here. TOBACCO KILLS! Please remember that.

Peace,

--

Cyarra 'CC' Swanson
Health Crew Manager
Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center
Science Museum of Minnesota

Andrea Ledger – Left VM Thurs 9/21 at 10:10 am – She is concerned with how the tobacco industry is pushing back regarding menthol cigarettes. She supports the ordinance to keep them out of the reach of children and urges you to do the same.

Ruth Mallen – Called Friday 9/22 – She lives in St Paul and believes the menthol ordinance is discriminatory and likens it to banning chocolate to obese people, or no chardonnay wine to white women in Edina. The City Council should spend their time and energy on other important issues such as homelessness – this ordinance takes away freedom to purchase legalized tobacco where she wants.

From: Alexis Bylander [<mailto:alexisbylander@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 2:30 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3; Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Please support ordinance to restrict sale of menthol tobacco

Dear Councilmember Tolbert,

As your constituent, I want you to know that I strongly support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco to adult-only tobacco shops. I hope that I can count on your support for this ordinance at the public hearing tomorrow (September 20th).

It is well documented that tobacco is still a significant problem in Minnesota. Every year people suffer from tobacco-related diseases and death. I work at a nonprofit organization that helps people who want to quit smoking. I constantly hear from people who are desperately trying to quit and the health problems they suffer while they try to do so. Tobacco use is a problem we can fix and policies such as taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop is one way we can do it.

Many nonsmokers may think that the smoking problem is over because it is no longer as visible as it was ten years ago when smoking was still allowed in bars and restaurants. But that could not be farther from the truth. The tobacco industry is alive and well and is constantly marketing its products to the next generation of smokers. Specifically, tobacco companies add menthol to tobacco products to cool the throat and make them taste better. I once heard someone describe menthol as “a way to help the poison go down” and there is no doubt that menthol makes it easier for kids to get hooked on these deadly products.

As you know, Minneapolis has already lead the way in adding menthol tobacco to the list of products that need to be sold in adult- only tobacco shops. It is time for St. Paul to follow and take the same bold action. And I hope that other cities in Minnesota will be quick to follow.

By restricting menthol tobacco to adult-only tobacco shops, youth will not be exposed to these products in places they shop, such as gas stations and convenience stores. And this policy is not a ban. Adults will still be able to access their products at stores in the city.

This policy will protect kids and reduce the smoking rate in St. Paul. It's a win for our community!

I will be attending the public hearing tomorrow and hope that you show your support for reducing tobacco use rates, protecting kids from menthol tobacco and making our city healthy and livable.

Sincerely,

Alexis Bylander
270 Brimhall St

From: Ruth Parriott [<mailto:ruthparriott@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 11:55 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: Councilmember Tolbert - please support restricted sales for menthol tobacco products

Councilmember Tolbert,

I was able to leave a message with your aide earlier today, but in case you are perusing e-mail I also wanted to send a direct message.

I am a parent living in Highland Park and was surprised to learn you may not be supportive of the important public health measure to restrict sales of menthol tobacco products to tobacco shops. It is certainly the right thing for St. Paul, which helped lead the movement to a smoke-free state a number of years ago. It's time to be a leader again. I am so proud to live in a city that puts the health of children and targeted populations first.

Please support moving this measure forward without delay. I am happy to discuss directly at any time.

Ruth Parriott

679 Sue Pl

St. Paul 55116

From: Scott Beedy [<mailto:beeds16@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:54 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3; Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Subject: I support restricting sale of menthol tobacco

Dear Councilmember Tolbert,

As your constituent and a member of the Mac-Groveland community, I strongly support removing menthol-flavored tobacco from places where youth shop. I hope you will support the ordinance before you at the public hearing tonight.

As someone who works at one of the hospitals in St. Paul, I am well aware that tobacco continues to be a problem here in Minnesota. Our facility treats far too many people each year who are suffering from the diseases caused by smoking.

It's incredible to me that a product that kills half the people that use it is still allowed to be sold in our stores. As a city, we should be doing more to protect our youth from the predatory tactics of the tobacco industry. Kids in St. Paul often shop at local stores that sell menthol tobacco. They see the advertisements, stand in line behind people who are purchasing the products and see them displayed on store shelves. All of this normalizes the use of menthol tobacco, a product that masks the harshness of smoking and makes it easier for another generation of kids to get addicted.

I love living in St. Paul and in our neighborhood. I want to be proud of the work our city does to raise a generation of healthy and happy kids. Please support the ordinance to restrict the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. I will not be able to attend the public hearing tonight but will be monitoring the status of the ordinance and follow up with you on your vote.

Sincerely,

Scott Beedy
270 Brimhall St

From: Sheri Riemers [<mailto:sheri.riemers@adycenter.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 3:44 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1-7

Subject: Saint Paul Menthol Ordinance Public Hearing 9/20/17 - ADYC Ordinance Support Letter - Attached

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of our organization, Ain Dah Yung Center has provided this letter in support of the Menthol Ordinance being heard in today's public hearing. Please note, our youth will also be in attendance at today's public hearing to show their support in eliminating easy access to harmful menthol and commercial tobacco found harmful to our youth.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,

Sheri Riemers

Government Relations Director

Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center

1089 Portland Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55104

From: Cyarra Swanson [<mailto:cswanson@smm.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 5:59 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1-7
Subject: SUPPORT OF THE MENTHOL ORDINANCE!

Hello!

My name is Cyarra Swanson and I work with young people at the Science Museum of MN.

I am in support of the St.Paul Menthol Ordinance. Youth are greatly affected by this issue and St.Paul should be a leader in our state and do what's right for the people who live here. TOBACCO KILLS! Please remember that.

Peace,

Cyarra 'CC' Swanson
Health Crew Manager
Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center
Science Museum of Minnesota
651-221-4532

From: Julie Daniels [<mailto:juliekdaniels@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:21 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Menthol cigarettes

Dear Councilmember Tolbert,

I live in your ward and I support the menthol ordinance. I'm the daughter of an elementary physical education teacher; he emphasized early on in our education the dangers of cigarette smoking. I have passed along that information to my own children.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance.

Thank you,

Julie Daniels

From: BIMAL THAKKAR [<mailto:b.thakkar@comcast.net>]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:39 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Support for ordinance related to menthol tobacco products

The Honorable Chris Tolbert
Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310-C City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member Tolbert:

We live in the beautiful Highland Park neighborhood in Saint Paul. We moved here about 5 years back from Woodbury and love being here! We enjoy the proximity this area offers to both downtowns and the airport. We appreciate living on the beautiful Mississippi River and are thankful for our wonderful neighbors and community here in Saint Paul.

We have 2 daughters; our older daughter graduated from St. Paul Academy and Summit School (SPA) in 2015 and is now in college, while our younger daughter is a junior at SPA. It has saddened us over the years to hear stories from our daughters about relatively easy availability of substances and products (tobacco products, alcohol, drugs) that we would all prefer our children to stay away from. They have also shared stories of kids they know that are dealing with issues related to substance abuse.

We hope that you will support an ordinance to get menthol tobacco products out of convenience stores and into adult-only tobacco stores where kids can't enter. Menthol tobacco products may be even more dangerous than regular tobacco products for kids because they are easier to start using as the menthol taste and cooling effect masks the harshness of tobacco. Passing this ordinance to regulate where menthol tobacco can be sold will be a great step to protect youth and future generations in our community.

Sincerely,

Amala and Bimal Thakkar
514 Mississippi River Blvd S
Saint Paul, MN 55116

From: Johanna Kertesz [<mailto:johannakertesz@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:00 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Methol tobacco ordinance

Dear Councilmember Tolbert,

Until recently, I was unaware that the City was considering taking steps to protect our kids from getting hooked on menthol tobacco products, which specifically target our city's youth and people of color. I was really pleased to learn of this proposed ordinance and have been reading more about the motivation for it.

Prohibiting menthol tobacco from being sold in regular convenience stores is a step in the right direction. We need to reduce access to a product that disproportionately impacts kids and people of color.

I've been seeing signs (picture attached) around our neighborhood at gas stations telling you they will go out of business if you pass the menthol ordinance. I am deeply disappointed that the tobacco industry is using the same tactics that they used when St. Paul was leading the state with our smoke-free air ordinance. The tobacco industry scared small business owners into thinking that a smoking ban would put them out of business, and they are doing the same thing now with convenience stores. I hope you can make a decision on your support for this ordinance free from the influence of the tobacco industry. The menthol ordinance would protect kids by making it harder to get products that make it easier to smoke. As a mom with two young boys, I hope you vote in favor of the ordinance next week to keep tobacco out of the hands of St. Paul kids.

Thank you for your consideration,

Johanna Anderson

1315 Sargent Avenue

From: Sarah Stocco [<mailto:yellow.cabin@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:40 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: Big Tobacco

Council Member Tolbert,

I learned with great disappointment that you are not supporting the ordinance to restrict sales of menthol flavored tobacco to adult-only stores in the City of St. Paul. I truly don't understand how you could not do everything in your power that would help keep menthol tobacco, used specifically to hook children on a deadly habit, out of the hands of kids. What am I missing here? This seems like a complete no-brainer to me.

Are you afraid that local business are going to close because they can't sell this type of tobacco if they're not adult-only? Do you not remember the fear mongering and doomsday pictures that were painted

when St. Paul decided to be a leader in smoke-free air over 10 years ago, which turned out to be a bunch of bluster? Bars and restaurants did not close because of the ban. Are you going to cave to big tobacco and not support this ordinance? Because that's sure what it looks like to me.

St. Paul can be a leader once again and ban the sale of menthol, mint, and wintergreen tobacco products in stores that are not designated as adult-only. There are many ways to show that you are putting the lives of children at the top of your priorities, and one of them is to support this ordinance. It is written SPECIFICALLY to protect kids.

I hope that you do the right thing for our community and do not bow to the money of big tobacco.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stocco

1611 Berkeley Avenue

St. Paul 55105

Dear City Council Members,

I'm a medical student at the University of Minnesota and was at Wednesday night's public hearing in support of the proposed ordinance restricting the sale of menthol tobacco. As a future physician, I can't emphasize enough how important these health prevention policies are. By the time a smoker reaches a physician's office, they've usually already done significant damage to their lungs, their heart and the rest of the body. We do our best to treat smoking related illnesses, but you have the ability to prevent these illnesses all together by passing policies that prevent youth from ever beginning to smoke. The tobacco industry has been using menthol cigarettes to get people hooked for decades, and we see the consequences of this in clinic day in and day out. Restricting menthol tobacco is the right thing to do for St. Paul. Thank you for standing up for healthy and equitable communities.

I look forward to the day that we can all stop youth smoking together.

Ed Walczak

MD Candidate, University of Minnesota Medical School
Class of 2020

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,

Sue Calvo
832 Case Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55106-3804

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,

Diya Shuaibi
1529 White Bear Ave N Saint Paul, MN 55106-1605

Dear Cnclm Bostrom,

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,

Lee Her
1310 Topic Ln
Saint Paul, MN 55106-2114

Postcards from BEAUTIFUL LIE UGLY TRUTH from:

Jordan Jacobs
1084 Sims Street E #J
St Paul 55106

Jonathan
607 Minnehaha Ave E
St Paul 55130

Steven Vang
707 Hoyt Ave E
St Paul 55106

Tanda Hobbs
1000 Edgerton #810
St Paul 55130

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com] **On Behalf Of** Amy Seaman
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:01 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2
Subject: Letter to St. Paul City Council Members

Dear Cnclm Noecker,

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, Amy Seaman

From: Deb Cavitt [mailto:Dcavitt@macmh.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 4:19 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2
Subject: Proposed Menthol Restriction Ordinance

Dear Council Person Rebecca Noecker,

Please continue to support the passage of the menthol restriction ordinance.

As a resident of Ward 2 and one of your constituents, I feel strongly that this ordinance will be a powerful method of reducing youth access to menthol tobacco products. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting youth, African Americans, women, and LGBTQ individuals with its promise of a refreshing, cooler taste than non flavored tobacco products. Unfortunately menthol makes it easier to start smoking, but harder to quit. Tobacco companies promise that menthol is healthier and safer, but menthol tobacco is just as deadly as non flavored tobacco as it also causes cancer, heart and lung diseases.

Reducing youth access is an environmental strategy that has been proven to be effective. 44% of youth tobacco users smoke menthol products. The average age of first use of tobacco products is 14.5 years. Adults who haven't started earlier will seldom initiate tobacco use. Therefore reducing youth access to tobacco products must be a key strategy to prevent nicotine addiction in children and youth. In Minnesota, an average of \$3.19 billion is spent on healthcare costs due to smoking each year and 6,300 individuals die from smoking related illnesses yearly.

Please stay focused on keeping the health of youth and all Minnesotans in mind and vote yes on the menthol restriction ordinance.

Thank you,
Deborah Cavitt

1. David Hermann
9-- Avon St. N.

Supports Menthol Ordinance Change

September 21, 2017

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

I was at the public hearing last night, with my 11 year-old granddaughter, in regard to the proposed ordinance to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to adult-only tobacco stores. I was taken aback

and highly offended by the comment made, “that this doesn’t cost the people in the green shirts anything”. I say, **HOW DARE HE.**

Most of them said 40 to 50% of their tobacco sales come from menthol products. We know that 88% of African American’s who smoke, smoke menthols, which means the majority of their customers are African American.

So what they are saying to me is they build their profits on the backs of and over the dead bodies of African Americans – again. They are saying loud and clear, “**Black lives don’t matter**”.

This mentality is reminiscent of how many in this country and in this community gained their wealth off the free labor of African Americans, and over their lynched and burned bodies.

The targeting of African Americans has been intentional. I am sure you are familiar with the statement by RJ Reynolds Executive in 1971, “We don’t smoke that s***. We just sell it. We reserve the right to smoke for the young, the poor, the black and stupid.”

This same type of sentiment was portrayed in the Hollywood blockbuster The Godfather about drugs. “... sell 'em to the Darkies... they're animals anyway, so let them lose their souls”.

So once again, you win and we die – **Black lives don’t matter.**

For me alone, this has cost me the life of my mother, the life of a husband, the life of 2 aunts – and he has the audacity to say it costs me nothing.

Menthol is so addictive that it makes it extremely hard to near impossible to quit. So this fight is about saving lives. We cannot afford to have another generation sentenced to death because large tobacco needs to replace those that have died from smoking related illnesses with warm, young, black bodies. Their argument is about profits and our argument is about life.

So, what you are telling us is that Black lives “still” don’t matter! God help us when we value the dollar over a life, any life.

Respectfully,

Dr. Sylvia Amos, President

Women’s Auxiliary

2. Adina Florea Weseman
12-- Saint Albans St. N

Supports Menthol Ordinance Change

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen,

I live in your ward and I support the menthol ordinance because I believe we should be protecting our population, particularly our very impressionable youth, from the extremely harmful effects of tobacco products. Allowing these products to be sold in colorful packaging and attractive flavor types helps imply that tobacco products are fun and safe, and masks the harmful effects, amply supported by science, of these products - particularly in the minds of youth, and as has been shown, youth of color.

This is not a matter of taking revenue away from small businesses/convenience stores and consolidating sales to a handful of tobacco stores in the city. It is a serious public health issue that affects generation upon generation and should be dealt with in the most serious and effective manner - by limiting access to these products. No other measures have been proven to be as effective. St. Paul must join the multiple other states/cities throughout the country that reserve menthol sales to only adult shops. This ordinance has broad support from organizations throughout St. Paul, including the NAACP, youth groups, and schools.

I urge you to vote in favor of this ordinance.

Thank you,

Adina Florea Weseman

1255 Saint Albans St. N

St. Paul, 55117

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3. Rev. Runney D. Patterson, Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church

712 Burr Street
Supports Changes to Menthol Ordinance

September 19, 2017

New Hope Baptist Church

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 have served as Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, located at 712 Burr Street in St. Paul since 2004 and am writing to express our support for the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of menthol tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. As Pastor, I am concerned about the health of my congregation and my community.

It is time to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to adult only stores in St. Paul! Menthol cools the throat, which makes it easier for our youth to start smoking. Menthol makes tobacco more addictive and harder to stop smoking. Of the African Americans who smoke, 88% use menthol. Menthol cigarettes cause cancer, heart and lung diseases, and death. Since tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Minnesota, preventing young people from starting to smoke is very important. This policy will go a long way to prevent young people in our community from becoming addicted to these products. 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,

Rev. Runney D. Patterson, Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church
712 Burr Street

* *

Postcards from 30 young people in Support of the Menthol Ordinance Change:

Xee Thao

2xx Orange St

Joette Branson

15xx Woodbridge St.

Meng Vang

5xx Arlington Ave E

Ying

9x W. Plato Blvd.

Eve Lee

15xx L'Orient St

Ly Chang (sp?)

1151 Western Ave N.

Phillips Vang (?)

13xx Farrington St

Naomi Tseng

1xx Magnolia Ave E.

Louisa Windnagel

5xx Wheelock Pkwy W

Shong Xiong

1174 Virginia St

Youa

14xx L'Orient St

Name illegible

5x Cook Ave

Khinu Xiong

10xx Desoto St

Name Illegible

13xx Woodbridge St

Shafarah Angline

4xx Hoyt Ave E

Anonymous

14xx Biglow Lane

Nicole White

4xx Hoyt Ave E

Jennifer Nguyen

10xx Loeb St

Name Illegible

8xx Clark St

D Barner

5xx Woobridge

Camani

70x Como

Shannon Kobinski

3xx Jenks Ave

Name Illegible

1xx Bigelow

Harmonie

12xx Danforth

Cyndee Mora

9xx Westminster

Robin French

5xx E Arlington

Melissa Perkins

2393 Nokomis

Jeff Yang

438 Nebraska Ave E

Name Illegible

92x Burr St N

Minnie M. Brown

1xx Arlington Ave E

Isis Dickerson

5xx Minnehaha Ave E

Council Member Amy Brendmoen
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
320-A City Hall
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member Brendmoen-

Although I was born in St. Paul, I moved away for a bit before coming back seven years ago. Living on the outskirts of the city right now, I love it. Our economy here is thriving, but banning the sale of mint and wintergreen tobacco would impact that. Therefore, I do not support this proposal at all.

More than just the economy, I oppose the ban because I smoke menthols. I have been smoking them for about sixteen years, and my girlfriend smokes Camel Crush. We buy from a local tobacco shop. Although I think most of them are chain stores, at least one is locally owned. Between the two of us, we probably spend around \$45 per week. That is a good chunk of tax revenue that the city will lose. This comes on top of the revenue the state has already lost by imposing constant tax increases on tobacco, causing people to buy a good portion of their tobacco out of state as it is.

Currently, I have been working as a debt collector for about five years. It is good employment, and I enjoy it. Sadly, not all the citizens of our city are so fortunate, and we do have a problem with unemployment. Maybe, instead of discriminating against tobacco users with more and more restrictions on a legal product, the city council should focus on issues that would improve our lives, like working on our unemployment problem or improving the condition of our streets. Please do all that you can to stand against this tobacco flavor ban.

Best,

D'mar Holmes



D'mar Holmes
1661 Gurney St
Saint Paul, MN 55117-3938

[09/25/17]

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. I am writing regards to you guys about approving about selling tobacco in only tobacco shops in regards to me i say you guys should because selling them in gas station or in each corner store can be dangerous because you never know if someone is buying tobacco for young kids and sometimes kids can be reached by it and that how they start of by doing those things i say you should totally approve it because i have siblings and friends can start doing that if there selling that in gas stations i say this because i know people that are reached by it hope you guys approve and thank you for your time .

Sincerely,

[Valdemar bahena]

[Almas student]

[Valdemar bahena - henry sibley high school]

BEAUTIFUL LIE UGLY TRUTH postcards received IN FAVOR of Menthol Ban:

Natasha Evans @ 1647 Barclay Street

St Paul 55106

Occupant

1349 Arcade Street

St Paul 55106

Cindie Peterson

749 E Orange Avenue

St Paul 55106

Toua

1721 Hawthorne Ave

St Paul 55106

Camie Thao

929 Barclay Street

St Paul 55106

Jayamie Lor

1582 Montana Avenue E

St Paul 55106

Taveusha Jordan

718 Magnolia Avenue

St Paul 55106

Occupant

1165 Arcade Street

St Paul 55106

Pashuana Ye Vang

658 Hyacinth Avenue E

St Paul 55106

Rose Xiong

604 York Avenue

St Paul 55130

Kharg Jackson

985 Ivy Avenue E #106

St Paul 55106

Victoria Caprioni would like CM Bostrom to vote NO to Menthol Ban because legislating morality doesn't work.

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

Saint Paul, MN 55102

9/25/17

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 business owners at gas stations claim that they're losing profits and when the menthol law is passed they'll lose all their money and lose family relationships.

But, they're wrong. They could still be able to sell the little snacks and drinks and still be making a perfect amount of money. What our problem is is that we're losing actual human lives. What the opponents are basically saying is that money is way more important than lives. We're losing family members, friends, and people from our neighbourhood.

I hope we can be able to make a change and help end this awful cruelty. I have close family members that have been affected by menthol. I'm tired of seeing lives being taken away from menthol. We don't need youth being affected by menthol and eventually lose their lives.

Sincerely,

Karely Reyes

Student

Henry Sibley High School,

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

Sep. 25, 2017

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. What I'm concern about is the fact that these gas stations are selling a product thats killing people and these gas station owners are so concerned about not being able to sell these prodructs that kill people all because they might lose profit.

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,

Britney Meza Rodriguez

[Student]