



ASANDC

Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood
Development Corporation

"To improve the social and economic well-being of the people we serve"

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October 6, 2017

Saint Paul City Councilmembers
15 W Kellogg Blvd #310
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Ward1-7@ci.stpaul.mn.us

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

I am writing on behalf of Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation (ASANDC) to express our support for the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of menthol, mint and wintergreen tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. ASANDC is a community development agency that has worked to ensure affordable housing, economic development and youth and resident leadership in the Rondo and Frogtown neighborhoods of Saint Paul since 1981.

The tobacco industry has targeted our community with menthol tobacco products since the 1960s. They bombarded us with messages and images in the magazines that we read and the stores where we shopped. They tried to make it look cool and fashionable to smoke menthol tobacco. They still do. Their unrelenting efforts to push this product on our community have worked, 88% of African-Americans who use tobacco, choose menthol products.

We need to restrict where these lethal products are sold to combat the effect that this systematic targeting is having on our community. Doing so will save lives.

Please do the right thing and show us that you value the lives of communities of color and young people over a dollar by voting to support this ordinance.

Thank you for your courage.

Sincerely,

Nieeta Presley

Executive Director