

From: Gregory Filice [<mailto:filic001@umn.edu>]

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 8:50 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an obligation to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

Menthol cools the throat and masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier for people to start smoking and harder for them to stop. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting African Americans, women, LGBTQ communities and youth with menthol tobacco marketing. Menthol tobacco use rates are therefore much higher in these priority populations, with 71 percent of LGBTQ young adult smokers using menthol products along with 88 percent of adult African American smokers. Additionally, in Minnesota, over 44 percent of high school student smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Filice

15 Crocus Place

Saint Paul, MN 55102

From: Anne Horst [<mailto:ahorst@alumni.nd.edu>]

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 8:20 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Anne Horst
1095 Osceola Ave.
Apt 105
Saint Paul, MN 55105

From: Rodney Henrichs [<mailto:rhenrich@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 8:12 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Rodney Henrichs
1272 Eleanor Ave
St Paul, MN 55116

From: Hollis Waalen [<mailto:hollis.krug@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 4:47 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Hollis Waalen
1524 Branston St
Saint Paul, MN 55108

From: Ellen Rest [<mailto:elberest@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 4:26 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Rest
740 Victoria St. S #147
Saint Paul, MN 55102

From: Priscilla Thomas [<mailto:priscilla456@comcast.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 4:14 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Priscilla Thomas
2312 Brewster St.
St. Paul, MN 55108

From: Paula Keller [mailto:pkathome@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 7:56 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Paula Keller
1272 Eleanor Ave
St. Paul, MN 55116

From: David Jaeger [<mailto:jaeger@aapa.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 3:09 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, and physician, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

As an anesthesiologist, I can tell you that putting patients with a history of tobacco abuse under anesthesia is more difficult than nonsmokers .

Smokers have more anesthetic and surgical complications.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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Sincerely,

Dr. David Jaeger

380 Mississippi River Blvd S

Saint Paul, MN 55105

From: ormanpmk@juno.com [<mailto:ormanpmk@juno.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:49 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1-7

Subject: Menthol cigarettes need to go

Dear Saint Paul City Council Members,

I urge you to restrict the sale of flavored cigarettes to include menthol ones. It amazes me how the tobacco industry continues to be allowed to sell their products, which kill when used as directed. We need to do all we can to discourage tobacco use: for our health, our healthcare costs, and the health of our kids. Please join Minneapolis in this critical initiative.

Paul Orman

Goodrich Ave

Saint Paul 55105

From: Maren Olson [<mailto:olson.maren@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:19 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: ST. PAUL PEDIATRICIAN supports restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a pediatrician and a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has a great opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing. Menthol cools the throat and masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier for people to start smoking and harder for them to stop. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting African Americans, women, LGBTQ communities and youth with menthol tobacco marketing. Menthol tobacco use rates are therefore much higher in these priority populations, with 71 percent of LGBTQ young adult smokers using menthol products along with 88 percent of adult African American smokers. Additionally, in Minnesota, over 44 percent of high school student smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Maren Olson

1446 Fairmount Ave

Saint Paul, MN 55105

From: Deborah Wexler [<mailto:dw2717@comcast.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:13 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Wexler

1405 Fairmount Ave

Saint Paul, MN 55105

From: Kealy Malmgren [<mailto:Kealy.r.ham@healthpartners.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 10:33 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Kealy Malmgren

640 Jackson St

St. Paul, MN 55101

From: Andrea Capaul [<mailto:ca@umn.edu>]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 1:00 PM

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

Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

Ms. Jane Prince,

As a St. Paul resident, mother to a toddler, and cancer survivor from Hodgkins Lymphoma, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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Sincerely,

Andrea Capaul
19xx Wilson Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55119

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com] **On Behalf Of** Scottie Owens
Sent: Saturday, October 7, 2017 5:47 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, Scottie Owens 13xx 3rd St E Saint Paul, MN 55106-5816

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com] **On Behalf Of** Mary Vestal
Sent: Saturday, October 7, 2017 12:32 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, Mary Vestal 1300 Wilson Ave Saint Paul, MN 55106-5771

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com [mailto:advocacy@mylegislators.com] **On Behalf Of** Kelly Thornell
Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2017 2:17 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, Kelly Thornell 1300 Wilson Ave 706 Saint Paul, MN 55106-5777

Rena Moran
State Representative
District 65A
Ramsey



Minnesota House of Representatives

10/2/17

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing today in strong support of the proposal before you to restrict the sale of menthol cigarettes to adults-only tobacco shops. This measure is an important step in the right direction to address one of many health disparities within the African American community.

Tobacco is the number one killer of African Americans and a significant cause of health disparities here in Saint Paul. For example, life expectancy in the Rondo Neighborhood is among the lowest in the city. A difference of 3 miles from Merriam Park to Rondo, equals a 13 year difference in life expectancy. Menthol tobacco is killing my community. This is a problem that you can help solve by passing this proposal.

I grew up on the South Side of Chicago and I was inundated by Kool and Newport ads everywhere I went. Constantly seeing the products and the ads had an effect on me. I became a smoker, like many of my friends. I had to fight with this addiction for many years. It wasn't easy to quit, it took several tries, but I am proud to say it has now been 18 years since I smoked.

I share that story to highlight the fact that there is very intentional targeting of the African American community by the tobacco industry. I am proud of my community – youth, community leaders, faith leaders, physicians – for standing arm in arm to make a statement. Our lives and bodies are more important than tobacco industry profits.

I also understand and have heard arguments against this proposal related to personal freedoms and harm to small businesses, but for me, this really comes down to our kids and future generations.

I implore you to be courageous and stand up with the African American community against an industry that has intentionally targeted communities of color and manipulated young people just so they can remain profitable. I will continue to fight against tobacco addiction, because the damage it does to our people is too great to ignore. And so I ask the Saint Paul City Council and Mayor Coleman: Please don't ignore us. Remember who is hurt most by menthol tobacco. Please take action to protect my community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rena Moran".

Rena Moran
State Representative





TO: St. Paul City Council
RE: Potential restriction of mentholated cigarette products
DATE: September 27, 2017

Dear City Council Members:

JT International U.S.A., Inc. ("JTI USA"), a small manufacturer of tobacco products in the US, believes that tobacco products carry risks to health.

JTI also believes emphatically that:

- Minors should not smoke, and should not be able to obtain tobacco products.
- Adult smokers should be appropriately informed about the health risks of smoking before they begin smoking.

JTI USA supports appropriate and proportionate regulation that is based on evidence and sound science. However, the recently contemplated legislation, seeking to heavily restrict mentholated tobacco products in St. Paul, is not based on sound scientific evidence.

There is no evidence that the use of menthol in tobacco products plays any role in minors' experimentation with smoking. Similarly, there is no evidence that smokers find it more difficult to quit tobacco products that contain menthol than those that do not. An outright ban or restriction to tobacco shops on these products would thus amount to arbitrary regulation based on abstract concepts such as "attractiveness" or "appeal".

Menthol is used in a variety of foods, drugs and OTC health and cosmetic products such as chewing gum, cough drops, mouthwash and lip balms. JTI USA similarly uses ingredients, including menthol, to help ensure that its products meet the preferences of its adult smokers and to differentiate its products from those of its competition.

There is no evidence to suggest that menthol is "addictive". Nor does the available scientific evidence support such an assertion or conclusion:

- studies have repeatedly suggested that the inclusion of menthol has no effect on smoking prevalence, smoking behavior, or on quit rates; and
- mentholated cigarettes account for a much smaller market share than non-mentholated cigarettes.

JT International U.S.A., Inc.
Glenpointe Centre West
500 Frank W. Burr Blvd, Suite 24
Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A.
201 871 1210
jti.com



If menthol cigarettes were in fact harder to quit, then logically you would expect them, over time, to enjoy a much greater market share than they do.

Despite years of investigating this issue, The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC) has not been able to produce science-based proposals to justify any menthol ban, which is why there is no Federal restriction on mentholated tobacco products for adult consumers.

The FDA's TPSAC was tasked with investigating mentholated cigarettes and produced a report, which was invalidated as a result of a legal challenge.

That judgment concluded that the report was "*at a minimum suspect and at worst untrustworthy*" on the basis that members of the TPSAC committee had serious conflicts of interest.

With no science-based proposals to justify a menthol ban at a federal level, we believe it to be no different at a local level.

Finally, the proposed legislation will not work.

Restricting the availability of menthol cigarettes in St. Paul will simply push the existing demand for these products across the city limits or to a very limited number of retailers.

At worst, this could open St. Paul up to illicit sales of menthol cigarettes by criminals, who have no regard for the law, regulatory compliance or age verification.

Rather than severely restricting the ability of adult smokers to legally purchase menthol cigarettes, we encourage the authorities to focus on enforcing minimum purchase age restrictions to ensure that no minor can access or consume tobacco products.

It is on behalf of our employees, customers and adult consumers that we advocate this legislation be abandoned and we remain at your disposal to discuss any aspect of this letter. We look forward to being part of the debate around eradicating youth access to tobacco products in St. Paul.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Maron', is written over the typed name and title.

Michele Maron
Corporate Affairs & Communications Manager

From: Sylvia Amos [mailto: @gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 11:35 PM
To:

Cc:

Subject: Ordinance to Restrict the Sale of Menthol Tobacco

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

I was at the hearing this evening and testified last for the side in favor of the ordinance. Unfortunately, time was running out and I wanted to respect the time that was allotted and as a result I was not able to give the full testimony I had prepared.

I would like to share what I was unable to share because it is important to me. I hope all of you will read them. See below:

Let's talk about the Beautiful Lie and the Ugly Truth

The Beautiful Lie

Big tobacco has known that cigarettes are deadly, but for decades the harmful effects of smoking have been their best-kept secret. Unfortunately, they can no longer blatantly lie about the ill effects of smoking.

It is now widely known, the harmful effects smoking has on the body, the environment, and the cash that would otherwise be in our pockets.

The Ugly Truth

- ✓ The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting the African American community, women, LGBTQ, and youth with menthol tobacco marketing.
- ✓ Tobacco companies add menthol to cool the throat and make the poison taste better.
- ✓ Menthol is so addictive that it makes it extremely hard to near impossible to quit. Nine out of 10 smokers never quit, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
- ✓ Anything from smoking a cigarette to inhaling the toxic fumes from cigarettes around you can cause unwanted, detrimental effects - Throat, Stomach, Lung, Bladder & Pancreatic Cancer - Increased Stillbirth Risk - Heart Attacks - Stroke - and COPD.
- ✓ The cost of smoking goes far beyond a pack of cigarettes. There are numerous "hidden" costs of smoking that many people don't even think about or consider. Increased Life Insurance & Health Insurance rates & Increased Health Care costs – To name a few.
- ✓ Tobacco smoke harms the pets we love. Animals can face problems such as respiratory issues, allergies, nasal & lung cancer in dogs and lymphoma in cats.
- ✓ Smoking shortens life - According to the CDC and Prevention, on average, smokers will die 13 to 14 years earlier than nonsmokers.

Below is what I was able to share, very quickly:

Last week, the opponents of this restriction compared the value of a human life to menthol cigarette profits, and said, "this doesn't cost the people in the green shirts anything".

This display board shows what this Black woman standing before you today in a green shirt has personally lost – the life of my mother, the life of a husband, and the life of three aunts, just to name a few!

Most of the speakers said 40-50% 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 likely African American.

I can only conclude, that as long as the greatest impact is on black lives, it doesn't matter. The value of a life is priceless for all lives except black lives. I know you are tired of hearing about "Black Lives", but guess what, you won't stop hearing about Black Lives until you value our lives as much as you value yours.

We all know the targeting of African Americans has been intentional. You name it, from drug wars, pipeline to prisons, to denial of opportunity, it has been done to us. African Americans have been targeted in every way possible and the target is still on our backs.

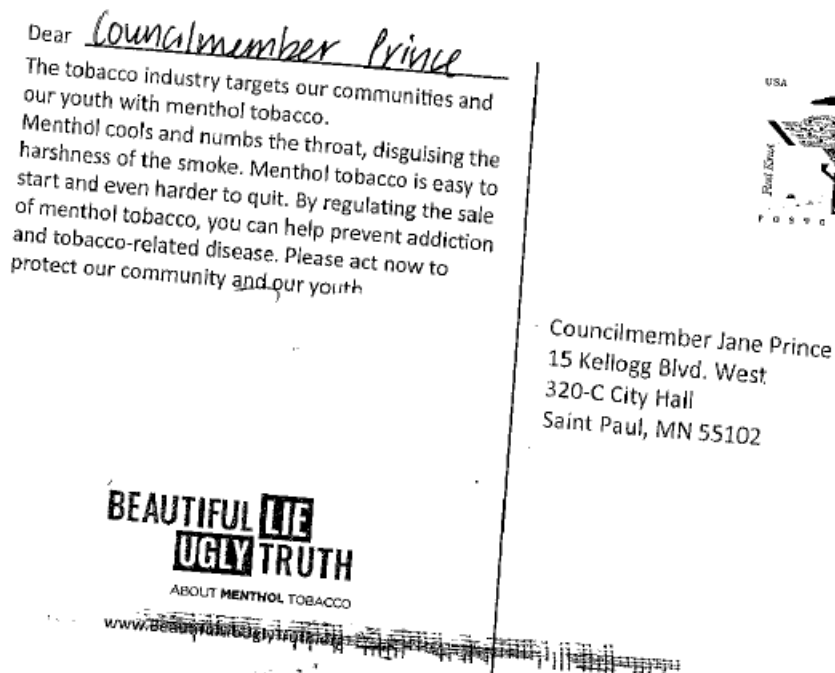
Black bodies have been experimented on ever since we were kidnapped and brought here so this country can profit from our free labor. From the Tuskegee experiment, to Henrietta Lacks, to the Hollywood blockbuster The Godfather and what they said about the distribution of drugs, " sell 'em to the Darkies ... they're animals anyway, so let them lose their souls". Since slavery until today, black lives have never mattered.

Our fight is about saving lives! Marketing studies showed that the companies carefully researched the menthol segment of the market in order to recruit younger smokers to their brands. Our goal is to keep menthol cigarettes out of the hands of the youth in our communities. 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. What you are telling me is as long as you make a profit, you don't care. **You don't put profits above life, you put life above profits. All lives should matter!**

I support the ordinance and urge you to pass it!

Respectfully,
Dr. Sylvia Amos
Director of Programs
Stairstep Foundation &
Women's President, MN State Baptist Convention

Ward 7 received 24 additional postcards:



-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly Martinson [.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 8:05 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

Menthol cools the throat and masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier for people to start smoking and harder for them to stop. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting African Americans, women, LGBTQ communities and youth with menthol tobacco marketing. Menthol tobacco use rates are therefore much higher in these priority populations, with 71 percent of LGBTQ young adult smokers using menthol products along with 88 percent of adult African American smokers. Additionally, in Minnesota, over 44 percent of high school student smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kelly Martinson
16xx Laurel Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104

-----Original Message-----

From: Patty Radford Henderson [mailto:patty@cityofstpaul.com]
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 10:23 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Ms. Patty Radford Henderson
4xx Portland Ave
St. Paul, MN 55102

-----Original Message-----

From: Marietta Dreher [mailto: .net]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 7:48 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marietta Dreher
17xx Hubbard Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104

-----Original Message-----

From: Hollis Waalen [mailto: @gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 4:47 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hollis Waalen
1524 Branston St
Saint Paul, MN 55108

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Rest [mailto: erest@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 4:26 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

Menthol cools the throat and masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier for people to start smoking and harder for them to stop. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting African Americans, women, LGBTQ communities and youth with menthol tobacco marketing. Menthol tobacco use rates are therefore much higher in these priority populations, with 71 percent of LGBTQ young adult smokers using menthol products along with 88 percent of adult African American smokers. Additionally, in Minnesota, over 44 percent of high school student smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Rest
740 Victoria St. S #147
Saint Paul, MN 55102

-----Original Message-----

From: Priscilla Thomas [mailto:comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 4:14 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

Menthol cools the throat and masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier for people to start smoking and harder for them to stop. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting African Americans, women, LGBTQ communities and youth with menthol tobacco marketing. Menthol tobacco use rates are therefore much higher in these priority populations, with 71 percent of LGBTQ young adult smokers using menthol products along with 88 percent of adult African American smokers. Additionally, in Minnesota, over 44 percent of high school student smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Dr. Priscilla Thomas
2312 Brewster St.
St. Paul, MN 55108

From: ormanpmk@juno.com [mailto:ormanpmk@juno.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:49 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1-7
Subject: Menthol cigarettes need to go

Dear Saint Paul City Council Members,

I urge you to restrict the sale of flavored cigarettes to include menthol ones. It amazes me how the tobacco industry continues to be allowed to sell their products, which kill when used as directed. We need to do all we can to discourage tobacco use: for our health, our healthcare costs, and the health of our kids. Please join Minneapolis in this critical initiative.

Paul Orman
Goodrich Ave
Saint Paul 55105

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

Menthol cools the throat and masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier for people to start smoking and harder for them to stop. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting African Americans, women, LGBTQ communities and youth with menthol tobacco marketing. Menthol tobacco use rates are therefore much higher in these priority populations, with 71 percent of LGBTQ young adult smokers using menthol products along with 88 percent of adult African American smokers. Additionally, in Minnesota, over 44 percent of high school student smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Wexler
1405 Fairmount Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

As a pediatrician and a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has a great opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

Menthol cools the throat and masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier for people to start smoking and harder for them to stop. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting African Americans, women, LGBTQ communities and youth with menthol tobacco marketing. Menthol tobacco use rates are therefore much higher in these priority populations, with 71 percent of LGBTQ young adult smokers using menthol products along with 88 percent of adult African American smokers. Additionally, in Minnesota, over 44 percent of high school student smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Maren Olson
1446 Fairmount Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an obligation to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

Menthol cools the throat and masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier for people to start smoking and harder for them to stop. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting African Americans, women, LGBTQ communities and youth with menthol tobacco marketing. Menthol tobacco use rates are therefore much higher in these priority populations, with 71 percent of LGBTQ young adult smokers using menthol products along with 88 percent of adult African American smokers. Additionally, in Minnesota, over 44 percent of high school student smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces

excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Filice
15 Crocus Place
Saint Paul, MN 55102

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Anne Horst
1095 Osceola Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rodney Henrichs
1272 Eleanor Ave
St Paul, MN 55116

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Paula Keller
1272 Eleanor Ave
St. Paul, MN 55116

As a St. Paul resident, and physician, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

As an anesthesiologist, I can tell you that putting patients with a history of tobacco abuse under anesthesia is more difficult than nonsmokers .
Smokers have more anesthetic and surgical complications.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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Sincerely,

Dr. David Jaeger
380 Mississippi River Blvd S
Saint Paul, MN 55105

As a St. Paul resident, and Medical Student, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Emilia Vesper
380 Wheelock pkwy e #215
Saint Paul, MN 55130

Kelly Jones . 2032 Manitou Ave . Saint Paul, MN 55119-3556

Council Member Jane Prince
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
320-C City Hall
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED

OCT 03 2017

CITY COUNCIL
WARD 7

Dear Council Member Prince:

There is no justifiable reason to ban menthol cigarettes and mint-flavored tobacco. The proposed ban on these products in St. Paul appears to be just another way to target smokers, no matter how respectful we have become to non-smokers. After all, this will restrict law-abiding adults from purchasing a legal product.

After twenty years of smoking only menthol cigarettes, I cannot imagine smoking regular-flavored tobacco. Most of my smoking friends buy menthol cigarettes also. The mom and pop convenience store where I purchase my cigarettes is only two blocks from my home. While there, I usually gas up my car and purchase bread, beverages, and other sundries. It seems ridiculous that I would have to travel to a different city to buy cigarettes, especially since I start a new job at a medical office right here in St. Paul in two weeks, just because someone decided that we need to ban menthol cigarettes. On another note, I believe that mom and pop shops would certainly lose customers. Like me, when many people purchase cigarettes, they end up buying other items that are money-makers for small business owners.

As a bartender when the state-wide ban on indoor smoking was enacted, I initially lost business. Smokers just could not wrap their minds around enjoying a cocktail without a cigarette. Always aware and respectful of non-smokers, I and many others have adapted. Many bars and restaurants provide patios so those who smoke can still enjoy a bit of relaxation. Hearty Minnesotans can tolerate the harsh winter months doing this because we really have no choice. Smokers seem to have a constant target on our backs; however, this proposed ban on flavored tobacco and menthol cigarettes is condescending. We are, after all, adults purchasing a legal product. Why the flavor of that product should be of any concern is beyond me. Please oppose this frivolous ban.

Regards,

Kelly Jones



-----Original Message-----

From: Alexis Bylander [mailto:a @gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 5:13 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: I support restricting the sale of menthol tobacco

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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We can no longer prioritize tobacco profits for a limited number of stores over the health and well-being of our youth. And stopping youth smoking doesn't just prevent future disease and death, it also reduces excess medical costs, which are an enormous burden on individuals, families and taxpayers. I hope the City of St. Paul will continue its history of leadership to reduce smoking by voting to restrict the sale of menthol.

Sincerely,

Ms. Alexis Bylander
270 Brimhall St.
St. Paul, MN 55105

As a St. Paul resident, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Kealy Malmgren
640 Jackson St
St. Paul, MN 55101

OPINION

Letters: What at stake with menthol tobacco? Lives

By LETTER WRITERS | letters@planetpress.com |

RECEIVED: October 13, 2017 at 12:21 am | PUBLISHED: October 11, 2017 at 12:00 pm

RECEIVED

OCT 17 2017

CITY COUNCIL
WARD 7

WHAT'S AT STAKE? LIVES

In its editorial, "Erase it: this good site for jobs is in a great city for jobs" (Oct. 6), the Pioneer Press cited business owners' concerns over restricting the sale of menthol tobacco products.

Business owners have long cried wolf when it comes to restricting the sale of tobacco, saying they will close down, be forced to lay off employees, etc. Yet, they are still profitable in our communities, selling poison to our youth. They are still thriving.

During a hearing in front of the St. Paul City Council, a business owner looked at the supporters for restricting menthol tobacco and said they had no stake in this, nothing to lose.

Let me tell you what we stand to lose: We lose lives.

We lose our families, our children, our elders. We lose our community. Maybe that doesn't matter to the business owners, but it truly matters to us.

I'm proud of the work I've done to protect youth in the Rondo community, who are heavily targeted by the tobacco industry. Because of decades of targeting, 88 percent of African American smokers use menthol products. I was introduced to tobacco at 8 years old, and it was the norm around me. My "power of choice" was limited because everyone around me was smoking.

I want better than that for my children and the youth I work with. Money, property and prestige should not mean more than the lives, health and safety of those in communities of color. When it comes to protecting the lives in our community over protecting the profits of few, there should be no debate.

Bernice J. Presley Sr., St. Paul



Ms. Jane Prince,

As a St. Paul resident, mother to a toddler, and cancer survivor from Hodgkins Lymphoma, I am writing to ask you to support restricting the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores.

The City of St. Paul has an opportunity to protect kids, reduce health disparities and save lives. Taking menthol-flavored tobacco products out of stores where kids shop like gas stations and corner stores will decrease youth access and exposure to menthol-flavored tobacco products and marketing.

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Sincerely,

Andrea Capaul
1905 Wilson Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55119