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OCT 24 2017
CITY CLERK

October 24, 2017

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

Saint Paul City Council members,

City Council, I am asking you to please reconsider your stance on the menthol ban. Smokers and nonsmokers will feel the weight of this ban in their neighborhoods.

I agree smoking is bad, and we should do something to lower the number of smokers in our city. But implementing a ban of menthol products is not the way to go about reaching this goal. I believe we should redirect our focus on education and continue to let stores sell a legal product to adults.

Sincerely,

Shania Fran Klin
Shania Fran KLIN, ST.P

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Saint Paul City Council members,

A ban on the sale of menthol tobacco from St. Paul's convenience stores is not going to curb teen smoking. It will, however, kill jobs and put small businesses at risk. The City Council would be foolish to ignore the impact this is going to have on our economy. This ban came too quickly, and although there was an extension placed on the vote, it seems many of you in City Hall already have your minds made up.

It would be a mistake to close your minds off to any alternative solutions. Please spend the next few weeks considering alternatives to an all out harmful ban on menthol.

Sincerely,

Vicki Purkey, St Paul Mn.

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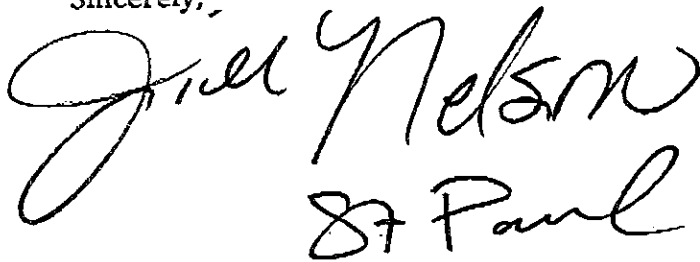
St. Paul City Council members,

The extension on the menthol ban vote was a step in the right direction. I respect those in City Council who acknowledged that this ban has been rushed through and I am thrilled we have decided to slow it down a bit.

However, I believe that the last month has been wasted. We were told that City Council was committed to engaging with local retailers but then canceled the meeting thirty minutes before it was set. And now the only stakeholder meeting is scheduled for the day before the vote; a clear sign the meeting is only for appearances.

If the Council is sincere in their concern over our local businesses then they will delay the vote.

Sincerely,


Jill Nelson
St Paul

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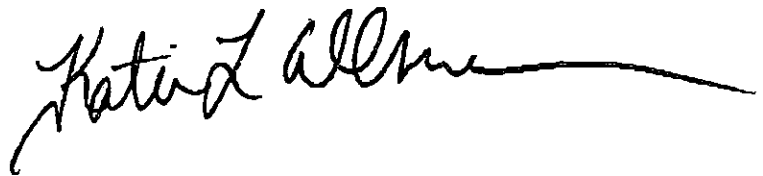
St. Paul City Council members,

City Council, if you are genuine in your commitment to engage businesses then you will continue with the stakeholder process and lay over the ordinance for further time.

We were told that City Council took very seriously the effect the menthol ban would have on local retailers but your actions say something different entirely. The meeting with stakeholders was canceled thirty minutes before its set time and rescheduled for the day before the vote; that sends a clear message that City Council was insincere and disingenuous when they told us there would be a process.

The vote should be delayed and the stakeholders should be given the time and effort they were promised before a final decision is made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaitlin Allme", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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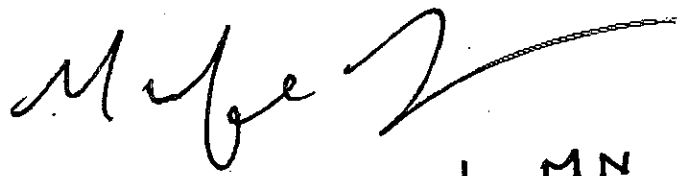
CITY CLERK

St. Paul City Council members,

City Council led us to believe that the last thirty days would be spent engaging with stakeholders in the menthol ban but that has not been the case whatsoever. We were told a process would take place but nothing has; the time was wasted. And now, the day before the vote, the Council is finally sitting down with retailers, how insincere.

I am asking you City Council to stay true to your word when you said that a process would take place before a vote and lay over the ordinance for further time.

Sincerely,


St. Paul, MN

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St. Paul City Council members,

The last thirty days have been wasted. The menthol tobacco ordinance vote was extended a month with the mentality that a process would take place during the delay however, that is not the case.

The city canceled a meeting 30 minutes before its set time and then waited until the very last day to hold its only stakeholder meeting a day before the vote; a clear indication that the Council's commitment to supporting retailers was superficial.

If City Council is sincere in their intentions to support the stakeholder process than they will vote tomorrow to lay over the ordinance for further time.

Sincerely,


S. FOSTER

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

St. Paul City Council members,

Actions speak louder than words.

City Council said that they were going to support a stakeholder process and that they would work with retailers their actions, however, speak for themselves. The City canceled a meeting with retailers 30 before it was supposed to start and then waited until the very last day before the vote to reschedule.

Their actions are not supportive or sincere. If City Council really supports the stakeholder process than they need to delay the vote because what needs to be done cannot be done in a day; the conversation is not that simple.

Before voting on a harmful ordinance there needs to be an actual process executed and an economic study.

Delay the vote.

Sincerely,

C R T T E N O

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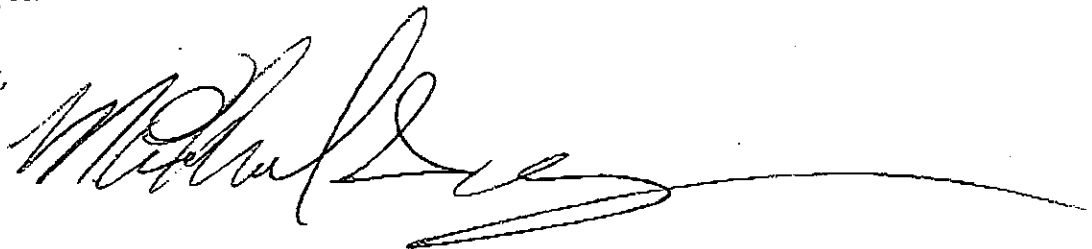
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St. Paul City Council Members,

This ban is not going to keep me from smoking, however; it is going to keep me from being able to continue to support my local convenience stores. I walk into the store with the intention of only buying a pack of menthol cigarettes and when I leave I find myself with a bag full of other things; snacks, a drink, or whatever else looked tempting at that time and now all that profit is now going to go to somewhere outside my neighborhood.

I don't think City Council fully understands how this ban is going to affect communities. There needs to be an economic study done before this ordinance is voted on. We rely on these stores to buy the things our families need and these stores rely on the sales of menthol to keep their doors open. This ban is going to hurt people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael...", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Saint Paul City Council members,


The City Council should rethink the menthol ban. If you want to curb teen smoking, you need to find the source of the problem. With retailers having an upwards of 98 percent compliance rate, the problem clearly is not stemming from them. This is a social issue; kids are getting tobacco from a person they know. That is the issue that needs to be addressed.

We should not be punishing retailers for doing a good job at not selling to minors. We need to focus on educating the community on the harmful effects tobacco has so they do not begin smoking in the first place.

Adults, however, who have made the decision to smoke menthol should be allowed to do so. That is their right as an American citizen. City Council should not be in the business of taking rights away from people.

Vote no!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Shueben". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

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St. Paul City Council Members,

Thank you, City Council, for coming to the conclusion that this process on the proposed menthol ban has been rushed. However, I believe we still need more time, thirty days was just not enough. I encourage you all to push the vote back once again so we can take the time to fully understand the effects a ban like this will have on our community. I believe that there should be an economic study done before a final decision is made.

Let's make sure we do this process right so when we come to a final decision we can confidentially say that we have explored every angle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'UJN' with a long, wavy flourish extending to the right.

St. Paul MN

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St. Paul City Council Members,

City Council, I respect your decision to delay the vote but I think we still need more time. I worry that you are closing yourselves off to other possible solutions to the issue of teen smoking. I believe we are capable of coming together as a city and finding a solution that improves the health of our community and supports small local businesses.

I urge you to delay the vote once again so we can continue to work together to find a solution that supports everyone.

Yvonne Cobb

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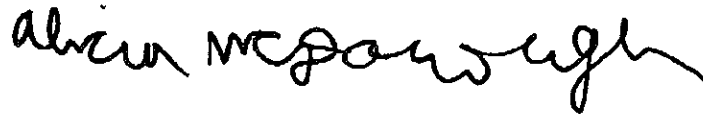
St. Paul City Council Members,

The menthol ban will have serious implications on the St. Paul economy, so I thank you for taking the opportunity to delay the vote for four weeks, however, I believe we still need more time.

The menthol ban is going to be harmful to our local business community, and I believe we need to keep the conversation going to figure out the best way for our city to move forward.

The city needs more time to work together to find a positive solution that each side of the issue can be proud of so I am asking you to please delay the vote again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan McFarough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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City Council
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St. Paul City Council Members,

I appreciate the City Council's decision to delay the vote but I do not think we have come to a point where we are ready to make a definite decision on the proposed menthol ban.

There should be an economic study done so we are not blindsided by the effects a ban like this will have on our small business community.

City Council, you took a step in the right direction when you delayed the vote the first time and I thank you for that, however, the conversation has only begun.

I am asking you to please delay the vote once again so we can continue exploring alternatives to a menthol ban.

Sincerely,

Andrew Davis

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St. Paul City Council Members,

Thank you for taking your time to the menthol vote for the city council. We know how vital it is to support small businesses. This is not an issue that you can just run through, and I am happy to see that you are willing to take the time to listen to every voice in the city. You proved that you value our voices twice, and it will not go unnoticed.

Nevertheless, I believe we still need more time to fully understand what a ban like this will have on our city. An economic study should be done before we go any further in this process.

Let's slow down once more and make sure we are exploring every option before the vote.

Sincerely,

Alysa Gould
alexandra Gould