

From: d.shegos@comcast.net <d.shegos@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, August 16, 2019 9:30 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ordinance Increasing Tobacco Sales Age

Just wanted to let council member Tolbert know that I support the above ordinance.

Thank you.

Dennis Shegos
1779 Hampshire Ave
St. Paul MN 55116

From: Adam McColley [<mailto:amccolley1374@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 10:29 AM

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

Subject: Tobacco Ban Proposal

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

As an employee at a tobacco retailer in the city of Saint Paul, I have been invited by Councilmember Dai Thao (via form letter with a facsimile signature) to share my comments regarding the City Council's efforts to ban the sale of tobacco to legal adults. I would hope the City Council would request the input of all citizens, but I assume it would be foolish to expect a similar invitation to arrive at my private residence.

I would like to start by asking what the City Council aims to accomplish with this ban. Is this an admission that Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota generates enough tax revenue that the City Council is willing to forfeit future tax dollars that would be collected through tobacco sales by adults between the ages of 18 and 20? I suppose it would be foolish to assume that the answer to that question is yes, and that the city or the state will never again raise my taxes.

So, if the city and the state don't have enough money to forfeit future revenues, what does the City Council hope to accomplish by prohibiting legal adults from purchasing legal goods? In this city, state and nation, we recognize 18 as the legal age of adulthood. An 18 year old can join the military and risk life and limb fighting enemies abroad to protect citizens at home, but the Saint Paul City Council wishes to prohibit that person from buying a pack of smokes at home. This is a free country, and the City Council wishes to steal away freedom from the young adults who put their lives on the line to defend it. At 18 years old and individual is responsible enough to vote for political office, yet the City Council believes that same individual too irresponsible to decide what they can put into their own body,

so the City Council wishes to overstep its authority to deem what's best for the individual. That's not your job; you weren't elected for that purpose.

The citizens of Saint Paul deserve an explanation as to why the City Council is seeking to prohibit the purchase of a legal product to legal aged residents. The retailers within the city limits deserve an explanation why the City Council is working hard to chase commerce away to neighboring cities. If this ban is imposed and is implemented effectively the end result will be; less revenue for retailers, which reduces sales tax revenue for the city and state, which results in higher taxes for all Minnesotans. The end result is fewer freedoms for Minnesotans, at a higher price. That benefits no one.

Crime follows prohibition. By prohibiting the sale of legal goods to legal adults, you only create a larger market for those who sell tobacco illegally. The criminal elements that came to prominence after the prohibition of alcohol are well documented. Why the City Council would invite similar criminal activity by banning tobacco sales is unexplainable and indefensible. By supporting this latest prohibition you are, by extension, supporting the black market this prohibition will inevitably create.

My objective here is to ascertain the reason the Saint Paul City Council wishes to usurp the liberty enjoyed by the citizens they serve. You were elected by the people of this city, to serve the people of this city by protecting their best interests. I would like the City Council to explain to me, and every citizen of Saint Paul, why you think taking away freedom is in the best interest of any citizen.

I encourage you to act in the best interests of the very residents who you represent. Freedom is always in the best interest of the individual, and the community as a whole. Put aside the efforts of and contributions from the lobbyists, put aside your own political aspirations, and vote for the freedom of your constituents. Vote against this tobacco ban.

From: Lorna Schmidt <lorna.r.schmidt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Carter, Melvin (CI-StPaul) <Melvin.Carter@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please Support Tobacco 21

Mayor Carter and Council Member Tolbert -

As a resident of St. Paul, I am writing to urge you to stop the start in St. Paul and vote YES on raising the minimum sale age for tobacco products from 18 to 21.

We can do more to prevent kids from becoming addicted to tobacco. An effective way is to ensure tobacco products are only sold to adults who are 21 and older. Often known as Tobacco 21, this policy has already passed in more than 40 communities across Minnesota.

I also ask you to reconsider the purchase, use, and possession (PUP) penalties drafted into this Tobacco 21 policy. PUP penalties stigmatize our youth and have been proven to not work at reducing youth tobacco use. Instead, laws that focus on preventing retailers from selling tobacco and nicotine products to our youth are more effective, efficient, and easier to enforce. Please vote to remove PUP penalties from St. Paul's Tobacco 21 ordinance.

Preventing youth from starting to smoke is essential to reducing smoking prevalence, because almost 95 percent of addicted adult smokers start before age 21. Increasing the age gap between kids and those who can legally buy tobacco will help remove access to tobacco products from the high-school environment and stop the start.

Please protect St. Paul's youth by voting yes to Tobacco 21.

Thank you!

Lorna Schmidt

518 Hamline Avenue South, St. Paul

From: b b <baraberg@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 2:19 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Added testimony on raising the age for e-digs to 21

As a physician I have a few thoughts on the use of vaporized nicotine products or e-cigs by young people:

- 1) The inhaled nicotine products contain ultrafine particles, aldehydes and other volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals such as lead, nickel and tin, as well as additional dangerous chemicals in added flavorants. We know the human brain is not fully developed until age 25 years or so, and the developing brain is especially sensitive to toxins.
- 2) E-cig liquid is dangerous and poisonous if absorbed through skin or eye membranes. How can this liquid be harmless when breathed into delicate lung tissue?
- 3) E-cigs are addictive. The American Lung Association estimates that one single Juul cartridge contains as much nicotine as a full pack of 20 regular cigarettes. One e-cig vendor at the last City Council hearing stated that he was able to quit regular cigarettes by using e-cigs; but he is still vaping 7 years (!) later. Substituting one addiction for another is not great progress.
- 4) Vaping can be a gateway to regular cigarette use. In fact, e-cig use by teens may increase the frequency and amount of cigarette smoking in the future (2018 National Academy of Medicine report).
- 5) At a time when education and regulation of regular cigarettes are increasingly effective at reducing cigarette use, e-cig marketing is successfully reaching young people. More high school students now use e-cigs than those using regular cigarettes. And the use of e-cigs is higher among high school students than among adults. Our experience with tobacco use over many decades has shown that addiction is most likely to start in the teenage years. There is little reason to assume that addiction to e-cigs will follow any different course.

6) Purveyors of e-cigs and vaping materials will undoubtedly be damaged economically by restrictions on e-cigs. So were owners of opium dens, brothels, pyramid schemes and chop shops. Some businesses do not deserve protection when they impinge on the health and safety of the population. I am confident that the earnest young men testifying against e-cig regulation can apply their entrepreneurial talents to other, more beneficial enterprises, if necessary.

Thank you for your support of the proposed bill to restrict the sale of vaping materials to people over the age of 21.

Bara Berg, M.D.
956 Laurel Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

As an employee at a tobacco retailer in the city of Saint Paul, I have been invited as a tobacco retailer to share my comments regarding the City Council's efforts to ban the sale of tobacco to legal adults. I would like to believe that the City Council would request the input of all citizens, yet I have not yet received a notice of the proposed tobacco ordinance amendments at my residence. The decision not to send notices of the proposed amendments leads me to believe the City Council has no interest in listening to, acknowledging, or voting on behalf of the residents they were elected to represent.

I would like to start by asking what the City Council aims to accomplish with this ban. Is this an admission that Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota generates enough tax revenue that the City Council is willing to forfeit future tax dollars that would be collected through tobacco sales by adults between the ages of 18 and 20? I suppose it would be foolish to assume that the answer to that question is yes, and that the city or the state will never again raise my taxes.

So, if the city and the state don't have enough money to forfeit future revenues, what does the City Council hope to accomplish by prohibiting legal adults from purchasing legal goods?

In this city, state and nation, we recognize 18 as the legal age of adulthood. An 18 year old can join the military and risk life and limb fighting enemies abroad to protect citizens at home, but the Saint Paul City Council wishes to prohibit that person from buying a pack of smokes at home. This is a free country, and the City Council wishes to steal away freedom from the young adults who put their lives on the line to defend it.

In Saint Paul, and the rest of Minnesota, an 18 year old woman has the right to end the life of a child growing inside of her. The City Council and the State of Minnesota recognizes that at 18 years of age a young woman has dominion over her own body, and has the right to choose how best to treat her body. Yet the City Council has the audacity to vote on whether that same woman should be allowed to buy a pack of smokes. How can you possibly vote to increase the legal age to buy tobacco while allowing 18 year old women to legally terminate another human life? They're our bodies, the choice of how best to use them is ours and ours alone. Nevertheless, the City Council has scheduled a vote to decide whether or not to usurp control away from the individual. At best, such an act is duplicitous and disgraceful.

At 18 years old and individual is responsible enough to vote for political office, and feel disenfranchised when the political representatives they help to elect turn a deaf ear when it comes to making decisions that affect the lives of these young voters. The City Council believes that same individual, the best interests of whom they are elected to protect, is too irresponsible to decide what they can put into their own body, so the City Council wishes to overstep its authority to deem what's best for the individual. That's not your job; you weren't elected for that purpose.

The citizens of Saint Paul deserve and explanation as to why the City Councils is seeking to prohibit the purchase of a legal product to legal aged residents. The retailers within the city limits deserve and explanation as to why the City Council is working hard to chase commerce away to neighboring cities. If this ban is imposed and is implemented effectively the end result will be; less revenue for retailers, which reduces sales tax revenue for the city and state, which results in higher taxes for all Minnesotans. The end result is fewer freedoms for Minnesotans, at a higher price. That benefits no one.

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My objective here is to ascertain the reason the Saint Paul City Council wishes to usurp the liberty enjoyed by the citizens they serve. You were elected by the people of this city, to serve the people of this city by protecting their best interests. I would like the City Council to explain to me, and every citizen of Saint Paul, why you think taking away freedom is in the best interest of any citizen.

I encourage you to act in the best interests of the very residents who you represent. Freedom is always in the best interest of the individual, and the community as a whole. Put aside the efforts of and contributions from the lobbyists, put aside your own political aspirations, and vote for the freedom of your constituents. Vote against this tobacco ban.

If you truly concerned yourselves with the interests of the people you are paid to represent, you would abstain from voting entirely on this issue and instead put it on the ballot and allow the people to vote on it themselves. If the proposed amendment to the tobacco ordinance is passed, the City Council will prove to every resident that the only people they are concerned about are themselves.

Sincerely,

Adam McColley

Saint Paul Voter

From: Alexis Bylander <alexisbylander@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 10:26 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Kelley, Pattie (CI-StPaul) <pattie.kelley@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; McMahon, Melanie (CI-StPaul) <Melanie.McMahon@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: I live in Ward 3 and support raising the tobacco sale age to 21 in St. Paul

Dear Council Member Tolbert,

I live in Ward 3 and strongly support increasing the tobacco sale age to 21.

I had the opportunity to meet with you several years ago when St. Paul was considering passing an ordinance to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products including menthol. I appreciated the time to talk with you and your ultimate support of the ordinance.

As a staff member at ClearWay Minnesota I am keenly aware of how the tobacco industry works to keep their products appealing and visible in our community and I know the devastating health impacts that tobacco use has on health.

I am so proud of the steps that St. Paul has taken to limit the accessibility and visibility of tobacco in our city and its work to protect youth from the harms of tobacco. That said, there is more work to be done. As a public health advocate, mom and concerned community member, I strongly support raising the tobacco sale age to 21. I hope you will support this ordinance.

Thank you for all you do to make St. Paul the dynamic and livable city that we all get to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Alexis Bylander
270 Brimhall St.