

To: Mayor Carter, Council Member Noecker, All Other Council Members
From: Jeff Tentinger and Robin Werrbach
Date: 12/8/2020
RE: Smoking Disclosure Ordinance

Hi my name is Jeff Tentinger, my wife, Robin and I, live in Gallery Tower located in downtown St. Paul at 26th 10th Street West, unit 411. We have lived and worked in St Paul for the past 25 years or so. We have lived in our Condo in downtown for the past 4 years and have enjoyed the lifestyle Condo living and downtown St Paul has to offer.

Together, we have been fighting for, and strongly advocating for, changes to the city ordinances to help combat second hand smoke issues in Condo's and all Common Interest Communities ("CIC"s). This journey started because of a specific issue we had with second hand smoke when we bought our condo. It has now become a fight for a fundamental human rights issue that has been overlooked too long.

Our journey has brought us to meetings with, air quality testing professionals, HOA meetings, Lawyers offices, meetings with city staff, meetings with Council Member Noecker, the Hamline Law School, and the Live Smoke Free organization to name a few of our interactions over the past 4 years. This journey has cost us thousands of dollars as we fight for the basic human right to breathe clean air in ***our own home***.

The most painful part of this journey has been to speak to a resident where we live. Her name is Bianca. She is in her 80's. Bianca suffers from asthma. Second hand smoke from other units aggregates her condition. She did not know this was an issue when she bought the place. She has shown me documentation from her Dr. that it is an unhealthy environment affecting her life. She feels stuck.

Frankly it is a bit surprising we are having this discussion in 2020 knowing what we know about the dangers of second hand smoke.

So here we are today. Today you have the opportunity to move the dial a bit in favor allowing people to make an informed choice. Today you get to decide if you want to provide St Paul residents the ability to know if they will be able to breathe air free from second hand smoke, or not, when they are purchasing a condo (or other multi-unit dwelling). It is something I wish would have been in place 4 years ago before we bought our Condo.

Although the passage of this ordinance will not be the end of our fight to rid second hand smoke from my building and other buildings, it is a huge, huge step in the right direction. The passage of this will provide a significant missing piece of information to those searching for a multi-unit residence. With that knowledge, individuals can then make an informed choice. It can help a future Bianca.

St. Paul condo buyers deserve full information about a property before they purchase their next home. Please vote yes to this ordinance.

Thank you,

Jeff Tentinger
Robin Werrbach

