

Public Comment on Ordinance 21-29 "Amending Chapter 324 of the Legislative Code in order to create separate licenses for Tobacco Products Shops and Tobacco Shops, to restrict pricing discounts or coupons, and to create a distance requirement between establishments licensed to sell tobacco."

**From:** david klevan <dhklevan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Saint Paul's anti-tobacco initiatives.

Dear Councilmember Yang;

I write to strongly support Saint Paul's anti-tobacco initiatives.

I am an MD and have practiced internal medicine in Saint Paul since 1997. I have witnessed the killing and maiming of hundreds of my patients by the tobacco industry. And now our country is witnessing the e-cigarette craze, very popular with our preteen children and grandchildren, perhaps addicting another generation to nicotine. We need effective measures to minimize the tobacco industry damage.

I have worked against the tobacco industry for decades. I represented HealthPartners on Smoke Free 2000 Coalition. I was a board member of ClearWay Minnesota. I testified in the Minnesota legislature several times on tobacco control bills. I debated the Saint Paul smoke free ordinance on Almanac.

The ten dollar cost for a pack of cigarettes will cause concern for some Saint Paul retailers. But raising the cost particularly discourages young people from smoking. And cheap cigarettes are cheap poison.

On behalf of my patients, my neighbors, our children and grandchildren. please pass the anti-tobacco initiatives.

David Klevan, MD  
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