

April 28, 2023

City of Saint Paul - DSI

Tobacco Licensing Division
375 Jackson Street #220
St Paul, MN 55101

Seized Cigarette/Tobacco Product

The Minnesota Department of Revenue recently seized cigarette and/or tobacco products as contraband under Minnesota Statute 297F.21 from a business located in your jurisdiction. Because all time periods for judicially challenging the seizure have expired, the property has been forfeited to the State.

Attached you will find a copy of our Notice of Seized Contraband. The notice lists the products we seized.

Why are you contacting me?

We are providing you information about our seizure of tobacco contraband so you may take any action against the city/county license as appropriate.

Contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve Johnson
Compliance Coordinator
Phone: 651-556-4708
Email: steve.johnson@state.mn.us

Supervisor Contact Information:
Dan Hughes
651-556-4750
dan.hughes@state.mn.us



February 6, 2023

ID: XX-XXX9888
Letter ID: L1829469344
Notice Date: February 6, 2023AMIRA GROCERY INC
864 RICE ST
SAINT PAUL MN 55117-5422

Notice of Seized Contraband

Seized Date and Time: 03-Feb-2023 230PM**Seized by: TOM & JIM****Seizure Location: 864 RICE ST****SAINT PAUL MN 55117-5422****Seized From: AMIRA GROCERY**

The Minnesota Department of Revenue seized the following property as contraband under the authority granted to the commissioner of revenue (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 297F)

Quantity	Unit	Product Description
8	pack/20	Newport Box 100
7	pack/20	Newport Box King Size
1	Single-P en	Loon Max 2000 Puff Ice Pineapple
1	Single Cigar	Backwoods Honey Cigarillo Single
3	Single Cigar	Backwoods Russian Cream Cigar Single
4	Single Cigar	Backwoods Dark Stout Single
1	5-Pack	Backwoods Black Russian - 5 cigars
1	5-Pack	Backwoods Honey Bourbon - 5 cigars
1	5-Pack	Backwoods Banana - 5 cigars
4	Package	Fronto Leaf Master Cream Natural Cigar Wrappers
3	2-Pack	Dutch Natural Leaf Cigarillos 2 for \$0.99c - Java Fusion Deluxe
3	2-pack	Dutch Natural Leaf Cigarillos 2 for \$0.99c - Honey Fusion Golden
3	2- pack	Dutch Natural Leaf Cigarillos 2 for \$0.99c - Sweet Fusion Red
4	2-pack	Dutch Natural Leaf Cigarillos 2 for \$0.99c - OG Fusion
1	2-pack	Dutch Natural Leaf Cigarillos 2 for \$0.99c - Blue Fusion Cream
4	2- Pack	Dutch Natural Leaf Cigarillos 2 for \$0.99c - Blue Fusion Burst



3 2- Pack Dutch Natural Leaf Cigarillos 2 for \$0.99c - Gold Fusion

The property listed was seized as contraband under the authority granted in M.S. 297F. The specific section of the law under which this property is declared to be contraband is M.S. 297F.21, which state(s).

Subdivision 1. Contraband defined. The following are declared to be contraband and therefore subject to civil and criminal penalties under this chapter

Cigarette/Tobacco 297F.21

(a) Cigarette packages which do not have stamps affixed to them as provided in this chapter, including but not limited to (i) packages with illegible stamps and packages with stamps that are not complete or whole even if the stamps are legible, and (ii) all devices for the vending of cigarettes in which packages as defined in the item (i) are found, including all contents contained within the devices.

(g) Cigarette packages or tobacco products obtained from an unlicensed seller.

(h) Cigarette packages offered for sale or held as inventory in violation of section 297F.20, subdivision 7.

(i) Tobacco products on which the tax has not been paid by a licensed distributor.

(j) Any cigarette packages or tobacco products offered for sale or held as inventory for which there is not an invoice from a licensed seller as required under section 297F.13, subdivision 4.

What must I do?

You must request a judicial review of this seized property within 60 days of the Notice Date. If you do not, the property that we seized will become property of the state of Minnesota.

How do I demand a judicial review?

1. File a civil complaint with the court administrator in the county where the seizure occurred.
2. Include proof that you served a copy of the complaint on the Department of Revenue.
3. List your name as "plaintiff" and the seized property as "defendant" in the title of the complaint.
4. State the grounds on which you allege the property was improperly seized and what your ownership interest is in the property.

You do not have to pay the court filing fee if it is determined you cannot afford the fee. If the value of the seized property is \$15,000 or less, you can file an action in conciliation court to recover the property. If the value of the seized property is less than \$500, you do not have to pay the conciliation court filing fee.

Steven Johnson



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Page 3

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