

THE ANSR

Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota

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ANSR staff photo

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Council Members Jeremiah Ellison and Andrew Johnson, who championed the ordinance, gather with advocates to give the thumbs up to raising the tobacco sales age to 21. Minneapolis became the eighth city in the state to raise the sale age.

Minneapolis raises tobacco sales age to 21

The Minneapolis City Council voted unanimously on May 25 to raise the tobacco sales age to 21, drawing a standing ovation from the large crowd of green-shirted Tobacco 21 advocates in the chambers. The council members also stood and clapped after the passage of the ordinance.

Council Members Andrew Johnson and Jeremiah Ellison co-authored the ordinance, which will reduce youth smoking and combat tobacco industry targeting. Immediately after the conclusion of the council

meeting, Mayor Jacob Frey held a press conference in support of the ordinance and signed it into law.

“... Our youth and our students are the ones changing hearts and minds on many things,” Frey said. “Today, the unanimous vote is a result of your hard work and persistence.”

Minneapolis is the eighth city in Minnesota to raise the tobacco sales age to 21. Edina, St. Louis Park, Bloomington, Plymouth, North Mankato, Falcon Heights and Shoreview have also raised the tobacco sales age to 21. Frey named

all these cities and said, “Now, Minneapolis has joined them too!”

“Let’s go save some lives,” Frey said as he signed the ordinance.

Frey and Johnson also encouraged state lawmakers to turn this into state law and protect all youth in Minnesota.

Studies project 30,000 youth would not start smoking during the next 15 years if enacted across the state. More than 95 percent of current smokers started smoking before they turned

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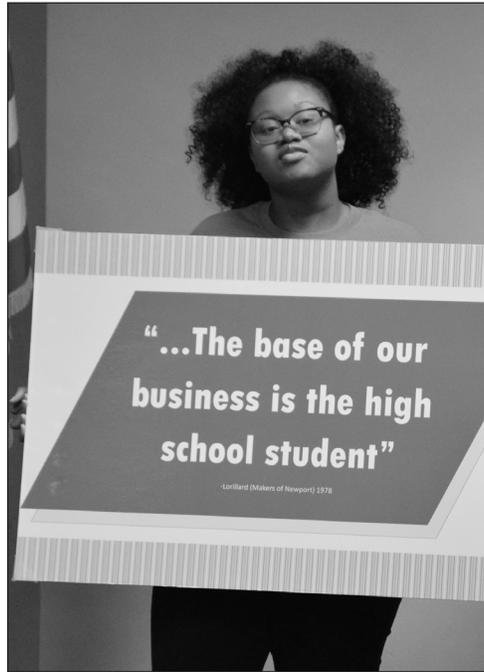
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21. If youth don't start smoking before the age of 21, they likely never will. More than 300 cities and five states nationally have raised the age to 21.

"Cigarettes are easy to get your hands on because seniors can go down the street to the local store and get them," Johnson said. "The best way to address this is by making sure youth never start. We won't prevent every youth from getting cigarettes, but it's not intended to. It will make it harder. It will save lives. Let's get this thing done across the state of Minnesota."

Added Ellison, "We know we want to support our businesses, but nothing can come at the expense of our youth and our community at large."

Derral Pratt, a youth working with Breathe Free North out of NorthPoint Health & Wellness, said during the mayor's press conference he has seen the rise of e-cigarette usage among



ANSR staff photo

Breathe Free North's Ebony Russell calls out the tobacco industry.

his peers during the past few years.

"Hopefully, this is the first step toward a tobacco-free generation," Pratt said.

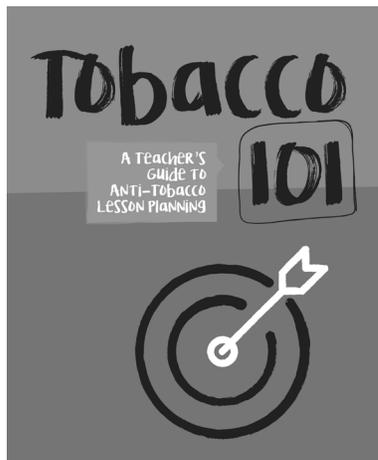
Minneapolis Parks Board Commissioner LaTrisha Vetaw, who works at NorthPoint Health

& Wellness, commended the city council for the unanimous vote, saying, "Today, our city took another step toward a tobacco-free future. The adoption of this ordinance shows our young people their voices matter. Thanks for having the courage to protect youth."

Sylvia Amos, of the StairStep Foundation, emotionally spoke about how tobacco-related illnesses claimed the lives of many important people in her family, including her mother and husband. She talked about how the tobacco industry particularly targets the African American community.

"We are taking the health of our community back and protecting the next generation from tobacco addiction," Amos said. "We cannot afford to have another generation sentenced to death because tobacco companies need to replace those who have died with new, young smokers."

The ordinance will go into effect on Oct. 1, 2018.



CVS Health gives ANSR \$20,000 grant

ANSR received a \$20,000 grant from CVS Health as part of *Be The First*, the company's \$50 million, five-year initiative to help deliver the nation's first tobacco-free generation and help people lead tobacco-free lives.

ANSR will use the funds to disseminate its Tobacco 101 curriculum. ANSR will conduct outreach to educators and youth leaders throughout the state about how

they can access and use the curriculum.

The curriculum is intended to train youth about the harms of tobacco, the tactics of the tobacco industry and how they can use their voices to make their communities healthier places. ANSR will also be launching a web portal at www.ansrmn.org/tobacco101 where educators and youth leaders can access the curriculum completely online.



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For more information, contact ANSR at:

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LOCAL POLICY WORK

Falcon Heights council takes bold steps

Falcon Heights took major steps to protect its youth and residents on May 9, when it became the first city in the state to restrict the sale of all flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores and raise the tobacco sales age to 21. The measures passed on a 3-2 vote.

At the time, Falcon Heights was the second city in two days – and seventh overall in Minnesota – to raise the tobacco sales age to 21. Shoreview voted to raise the sales age two days before.

Edina, St. Louis Park, Bloomington, Plymouth and North Mankato have also raised the tobacco sales age to 21.

More than 95 percent of current smokers started smoking before they turned 21. If youth don't start smoking before the age of 21, they likely never will.

Mayor Peter Lindstrom cast the deciding vote after talking about how the letters he received in support of the ordinance hit home for him.

He quoted a student who wrote, "We need to make the healthiest choice the easiest choice."

"For 17 years, all the efforts have worked, but there's been a change,



ANSR staff photo

Falcon Heights Mayor Peter Lindstrom and council members Melanie Leehy and Mark Miazga, along with advocates, give the thumbs up to raising the tobacco sales age to 21 and restricting the sale of all flavored tobacco.

and we need to double down our efforts now. Not tomorrow, but now," Lindstrom said, citing the Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey, which saw an increase in youth tobacco use for the first time in 17 years.

Much of the increase has been attributed to increased use of e-cigarettes and cheap, flavored cigars.

"It's everywhere," said

Roseville Area High School junior Vakare Bartkaitis. "There are no doors on our bathrooms because of people using e-cigarettes. You can smell it walking into the bathrooms.

"They go sit in a circle inside the handicap stall and pass it around. This ordinance will help prevent youth from making the wrong decisions, so we can lead our healthiest and

happiest lives."

Additionally, Falcon Heights is seventh city in the state to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco.

Falcon Heights follows Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Shoreview, Saint Louis Park, Robbinsdale and Duluth.

Three other cities, Minneapolis, Saint Paul and Duluth, have restricted menthol.

In a span of six weeks, five Metro cities raised the tobacco sales age to 21, bringing the statewide total to 11. Minneapolis brought the largest city in the state to the table, while Falcon Heights hit hard at the tobacco industry by additionally restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol. Here's a look at the advocates who helped raise the tobacco sales age in three other cities: Shoreview, Richfield and Roseville (top to bottom). All three city councils were unanimous in their support of Tobacco 21.



ROUNDUP

ANSR garage sale bounces back strong in 2018

It was another good year of fundraising for ANSR at the 35th Annual Plant & Garage Sale in May.

Nicer weather led to sales of \$5,500. That was more than a \$1,000 more than the previous year, which was hindered by loads of rain.

SAINT PAUL CAPS TOBACCO LICENSES: The Saint Paul City Council voted unanimously on June 27 to cap the number of tobacco licensees in the city to 242, which is the current number of tobacco vendors.

This new ordinance will put a stop to more tobacco shops opening up in the city. Aside from a letter from the National Association of Tobacco Outlets (NATO), there was no opposition.

ANSR continues to communicate with Council member Rebecca Noecker to bring forward an ordinance that will prevent people under 18 from entering liquor stores that sell tobacco.

LSF TEAM WORKING NATIONALLY: Live Smoke Free received a two-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help support the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s smoke-free housing rule implementation nationwide. In partnership with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) and the National Alliance for Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing (NAR-SAAH), Live Smoke Free launched Clean Air for All: The Smoke-Free Public Housing Project (CAFA) to provide training and technical assistance to public housing agencies, resident services staff, and public housing residents impacted by HUD's smoke-free public housing rule. The goal of the project is to enhance stakeholders' capacity to transition to and maintain successful smoke-free

public housing environments. You can follow CAFA's work here: www.smokefreepublichousingproject.org.

RESEARCH PUBLISHED NATIONALLY: Findings from an ANSR-led study were recently published in Tobacco Control. The paper, titled "A tale of two cities: Evaluating the retail impact of flavored tobacco restrictions in the twin cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota," shares results from an evaluation on the impact of flavored tobacco restrictions on retailers in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Results indicate policies that restrict the sale of flavored tobacco to adult-only tobacco shops are associated with decreased availability of flavored tobacco in convenience and grocery stores and increased proportion of tobacco inventory that is unflavored. <https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2018/06/06/tobaccocontrol-2017-054154>

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Residents at the Saint Louis Park Housing and Redevelopment Authority held a kickoff event to recognize the public housing agency going smoke-free ahead of a U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development rule.

This summer, staff and residents of public housing agencies (PHAs) across the state are celebrating the implementation of new smoke-free housing policies. In accordance with a new rule from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, all public housing nationwide must be smoke free by July 31, 2018. The Live Smoke Free Program provides statewide assistance to Minnesota PHAs and, along with partners, recently helped kick off new policies at several metro area agencies including the Dakota County Community Development Agency, the South St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and the Saint Louis Park Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The smoke-free policies at these agencies created 2,493 affordable, newly smoke-free units for low-income Minnesotans.



ANSR staff photo

ANSR's Alicia Leizinger gives a presentation on menthol tobacco at a conference in New Orleans.

ANSR's Alicia Leizinger attended the National Association of County & City Health Officials Annual Conference in New Orleans in July.

Her presentation, *Building a Coalition to Restrict the Sale of Menthol Tobacco in Saint Paul, Minnesota*, was well-received by health departments looking to also introduce restrictions on menthol tobacco.

Additionally, Kara Skahen, program director for Live Smoke Free, attended the Housing Authority of Birmingham's Resident Council Leadership Conference on July 12-13. She spoke to residents about the policy change, answered questions about secondhand smoke and listened to resident thoughts and concerns. She also conducted an interview with Birmingham Channel 13 news which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/KaraHUD>.