



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

Presented By: Commissioner Ortega Date: September 12, 2017 No. B2017-211
Attention: Public Health

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is committed to being a vibrant community where all are valued and thrive; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County seeks to strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being through prevention and early intervention; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County seeks to reduce tobacco rates and tobacco-related disease prevalence among adults and youth; and

WHEREAS, As a merged Public Health Department, Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health is responsible for acting in the health interests of both the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease and death; and

WHEREAS, Long-term tobacco use is directly related to many illnesses, including lung, oral and pharyngeal cancer, heart disease, and lung diseases, such as emphysema and bronchitis; and

WHEREAS, In 2009 the federal Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act prohibited the sale of flavored cigarettes, but exempted menthol, allowing mentholated tobacco products to continue being sold; and

WHEREAS, The harshness of the smoke is masked with menthol flavoring, making it easier for young people to start smoking and harder for people to quit; and

WHEREAS, Mentholated tobacco products have been shown to be the "gateway" product for youth who begin smoking; and

WHEREAS, National surveys show that mentholated tobacco products are particularly attractive to children with 47.7% of adolescent smokers (age 12-17) reporting menthol cigarette use compared to 40.8% of young adult smokers (age 18-25) and 31.5% of adult smokers (age 26 and older); and

WHEREAS, Data show that mentholated tobacco products are used disproportionately in communities of color, in areas of concentrated poverty, with 82.6% of African American smokers, 32.3% of Hispanic or Latino smokers, and 31.2% of Asian American smokers using mentholated tobacco products as opposed to 23.8% of White smokers; and

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Table with 3 columns: YEA, NAY, OTHER. Rows list commissioners: Toni Carter, Blake Huffman, Jim McDonough, Mary Jo McGuire, Rafael Ortega, Janice Rettman, Victoria Reinhardt.

Victoria Reinhardt, Chair

By: [Signature]
Janet M. Guthrie
Chief Clerk - County Board



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WHEREAS, A study showed 56.1% of all respondents and 75.8% of African American respondents supported the restriction of mentholated tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, Many menthol smokers would quit smoking if mentholated tobacco products were restricted, especially African American (44.5%) and female (44.0%) menthol smokers; and

WHEREAS, One model of smoking in the U.S. concludes that if mentholated tobacco products were restricted, between 2010 and 2020, over 2.2 million people would not start smoking and by 2050, the number of people who would not start smoking would reach 9 million; and

WHEREAS, A leading model of smoking in the U.S. predicts that a 10% quit rate among menthol smokers would save thousands of lives, preventing 4,000 smoking-attributable deaths in the first ten years and that 300,000 lives would be saved over forty years, with approximately 100,000 of the lives saved being African Americans; and

WHEREAS, The Saint Paul - Ramsey County Community Health Services Advisory Committee, which advises and assists the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners with its public health responsibilities, encourages all cities in Ramsey County adopt an ordinance to restrict the sale of mentholated tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has previously taken actions to regulate tobacco and smoking to promote public health and community well-being as additional data and information about the harmful effects of smoking have emerged; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners supports restrictions to sales of mentholated tobacco products to adults only, tobacco only retail stores throughout all Ramsey County jurisdictions by August 31, 2018.

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Table with 3 columns: YEA, NAY, OTHER and 7 rows of commissioner names and their votes.

Victoria Reinhardt, Chair

Signature of Janet M. Guthrie
By: Janet M. Guthrie
Chief Clerk - County Board