

Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers



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For Immediate Release

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RETAILERS TO MAYOR: NEW TOBACCO ORDINANCE WILL INCREASE CRIME AND SHUTTER SMALL INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES

With No Public Hearing Schedule on a Radical New Tobacco Ordinance, Retailers hold a rally to share their side of their story

St. Paul, MN- The Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers, will hold a press conference to highlight their concerns over the proposed tobacco ordinance changes in St. Paul. The ordinance is scheduled for 2nd reading and a vote on Wednesday evening. The Council WILL NOT allow public testimony, so retailers have been completely shut out of the process. This ordinance is the most restrictive ordinance proposed anywhere in the state and would set a minimum price of \$10 per pack of cigarettes and increase the price of all tobacco products. It creates two classifications of tobacco retail licenses and imposes new restrictions, including significantly reducing the number of licenses issued and imposing location restrictions, including removing tobacco from all liquor stores. The retailers plan to highlight a [recent study](#) that shows similar ordinances increase illegal smuggling, gang, and organized crime activities. They will also share personal stories about the potential impacts this ordinance will have.

WHO: Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers (Independent Retailer Businesses in St. Paul)

WHERE: Tobasi Tobacco
809 Selby
St. Paul, MN 55104

WHEN: Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10:00 AM

WHAT: Retailers will gather and share stories about how this will impact their business, including how the recently passed tobacco flavor ban has already cost many of them to sell or close their businesses. With no public testimony allowed for the ordinance, this is their chance to tell their stories.