

## Communication from Public

**Name:** LAYFTC

**Date Submitted:** 07/14/2020 12:44 PM

**Council File No:** 18-1104

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached letters from Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC) regarding ending the sale of flavored tobacco. Thank you.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

To: Los Angeles City Council  
200 N Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

From: Andrew Joonhyung Park  
11811 Venice Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Dear LA City Council,

I am committed in protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in LA City. As part of our mission, we/I support public health efforts to prevent tobacco-related disease and death and the growing epidemic of youth tobacco use initiation driven by flavored tobacco products. These products contain nicotine and can have damaging impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction.

Although cigarettes and flavored nicotine products are equally detrimental, flavored e-cigarettes -- colloquially called "vape" -- pose a greater threat to our youth. As a former smoker of 10 years, I am all too familiar with the lackluster regulations surrounding the sale of vapes. According to psychologists, habit-forming and addiction is largely attributed to acclimation and ease of access. The issue with vaping is that there is hardly anything to acclimate to nor are there any significant barriers to access. Unlike regular cigarettes, where a user would need to slowly learn to enjoy its taste, vapes come in an infinite assortment of pleasant flavors. Additionally, third-party wholesale websites are tantamount to the "Wild West". Through these sites, underaged individuals can easily purchase flavored nicotine products, at almost half the price, without any age verification or through insincere age verifications that complicity only ask for the purchaser's year of birth. These sites often operate without oversight selling expired products and, or products from unverified sources, which significantly exacerbates nicotine's negative effect on one's health.

I support policies that restrict the sale of all flavored tobacco products including menthol and hookah tobacco. Eight out of ten youth tobacco users start vaping with a flavored tobacco product. Flavored tobacco is attributed to an 135% increase in youth tobacco use between 2017 and 2019. There is growing evidence that e-cigarette use increases the frequency and intensity of cigarette smoking in the future. Menthol cigarettes are frequently used by youth and priority populations. Over half of youth smokers use menthol cigarettes and the rate is much higher among African American youth. Furthermore, hookah use has become increasingly popular among high school students and doubled between 2011 and 2015.

We encourage LA City to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products. Now is the time for LA City to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on candy flavored tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction. It isn't a policy maker's job to create a fool-proof regulation, but rather to create barriers to mitigate the current epidemic.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Joonhyung Park

## Protect Teens from Flavored Tobacco, Please!

June 13, 2020

To: Honorable Members of City Council  
200 North Spring Street, City Hall Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

From: Goeun Lee  
High school student at Larchmont Charter School  
Member of Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition  
225 N Vermont Avenue Apt 410  
Los Angeles, CA 90004

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

Hope you are doing well. I am an upcoming senior at Larchmont Charter School. I am also a member of the Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition. The Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles City jurisdiction.

As part of our mission, we support public health efforts to prevent tobacco-related disease and death and the growing epidemic of youth tobacco use initiation driven by flavored tobacco products. These products contain nicotine and can have damaging impacts on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. As a current high school student, I've personally seen so many of my young peers smoking at school and suffering with health effects. It is really sad to see young people negatively impacted by vaping.

Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition supports policies that restrict the sale of all flavored tobacco products including menthol and hookah tobacco. Eight out of ten youth tobacco users start vaping with a flavored tobacco product. Likewise, most of my friends at school who smoke started with flavored juuls. Flavored tobacco is attributed to an 135% increase in youth tobacco use between 2017 and 2019. There is growing evidence that e-cigarette use increases the frequency and intensity of cigarette smoking in the future. Menthol cigarettes are frequently used by youth and priority populations. Over half of youth smokers use menthol cigarettes and the rate is much higher among African American youth. Furthermore, hookah use has become increasingly popular among high school students and doubled between 2011 and 2015. There must be a significant change in policies in order to protect young people from getting early access to tobacco-related products.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products. Now is the time for LA to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on candy flavored tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction. This change is really needed. As a high school teenager myself, the impact vaping has on teens is shockingly negative. By setting new guidelines and changes in law, LA should protect teens from vaping addiction. More and more

young lives will be lost if you don't take action. Teens are the future of LA. Their lives are more important than money. We plead for your help!

Thank you in advance for your consideration and your time! I really appreciate it.

Stay safe and have a great day.

Sincerely,

Goeun Lee

June 30, 2020

To: Los Angeles City Council  
200 N Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

From: Jun Luo  
765 Weyburn PL  
Los Angeles, CA, 90024

Dear LA City Council,

I am committed in protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. I support public health efforts to prevent tobacco-related disease and death and the growing epidemic of youth tobacco use initiation driven by flavored tobacco products. These products contain nicotine and can have damaging impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction.

I support policies that restrict the sale of all flavored tobacco products including menthol and hookah tobacco. Eight out of ten youth tobacco users start vaping with a flavored tobacco product. Flavored tobacco is attributed to an 135% increase in youth tobacco use between 2017 and 2019. There is growing evidence that e-cigarette use increases the frequency and intensity of cigarette smoking in the future. Menthol cigarettes are frequently used by youth and priority populations. Over half of youth smokers use menthol cigarettes and the rate is much higher among African American youth. Furthermore, hookah use has become increasingly popular among high school students and doubled between 2011 and 2015.

We encourage LA City to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products. Now is the time for LA City to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on candy flavored tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jun Luo