

Communication from Public

Name: Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition
Date Submitted: 10/25/2021 02:51 PM
Council File No: 18-1104
Comments for Public Posting: Please find attached letters regarding the flavored tobacco ordinance being considered by the L.A. City Council and petition signatures for ending the sale of flavored tobacco with no exemptions for menthol or hookah.



DATE: 10/8/21

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

From: Arwa Saleh
Member of Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC)

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

My name is Arwa Saleh and I am a member of LAYFTC and also from California Connections Academy School. LAYFTC is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. 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 impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. I am concerned about these tobacco products including hookah because research shows that there is at least 82 toxic chemicals identified in hookah, these chemicals affect the lungs and can cause lung cancer in youth. Hookah can also increase heart rate, high blood pressure, as well as dental problems. Studies have also shown, that Hookah smokers are exposed to more nicotine than regular cigarette smokers and that's in adults, imagine what the consequences will be if it's on youth!

We 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. Smoking hookah for 45-60 minutes can be equivalent to smoking 100 or more cigarettes. Additionally, many of these young people do not think that hookah smoke is as harmful and addictive as cigarette smoke, exacerbating usage among them. The proliferation of hookah bars and lounges in California is leading to a growing public acceptance of smoking. This threatens to setback twenty years of progress in reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products and hookah by advancing the draft of the ordinance as soon as possible and voting on it, not exempting hookah tobacco products at all. Now is the time for Los Angeles to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on flavored hookah tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Arwa Saleh



10/06/2021

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

From: Madhumitha Vijay
Member of Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC)

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

My name is Madhumitha Vijay and I am a member of LAYFTC and also from Bert Lynn Middle School. LAYFTC is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. 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 impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. I am concerned about these tobacco products including hookah because I haven't and hope never will have contact with those substances.

We 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. Smoking hookah for 45-60 minutes can be equivalent to smoking 100 or more cigarettes. Additionally, many of these young people do not think that hookah smoke is as harmful and addictive as cigarette smoke, exacerbating usage among them. The proliferation of hookah bars and lounges in California is leading to a growing public acceptance of smoking. This threatens to setback twenty years of progress in reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products and hookah by advancing the draft of the ordinance as soon as possible and voting on it, not exempting hookah tobacco products at all. Now is the time for Los Angeles to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on flavored hookah tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Madhumitha Vijay



10/06/2021

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

From: Arjun Vijay
Member of Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC)

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

My name is Arjun Vijay and I am a member of LAYFTC and also from Bert Lynn Middle School. LAYFTC is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. 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 impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. I am concerned about these tobacco products including hookah because I haven't and hope never will have contact with those substances.

We 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. Smoking hookah for 45-60 minutes can be equivalent to smoking 100 or more cigarettes. Additionally, many of these young people do not think that hookah smoke is as harmful and addictive as cigarette smoke, exacerbating usage among them. The proliferation of hookah bars and lounges in California is leading to a growing public acceptance of smoking. This threatens to setback twenty years of progress in reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products and hookah by advancing the draft of the ordinance as soon as possible and voting on it, not exempting hookah tobacco products at all. Now is the time for Los Angeles to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on flavored hookah tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Arjun Vijay



DATE: 05/10/2021

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

From: NAME:Amanda Melissa
Member of Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC)

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

My name is _Amanda Melissa and I am a member of LAYFTC and also from Dymall School. LAYFTC is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. 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 impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. I am concerned about these tobacco products including hookah because at first I thought tobacco use can reduce stress and anxiety. I used to smoke 5 to 6 times a day; later on I came to realize that tobacco use causes brain damage and increases the risk of stroke. Usage contain nicotine which has several effects in the human body.

We 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. Smoking hookah for 45-60 minutes can be equivalent to smoking 100 or more cigarettes. Additionally, many of these young people do not think that hookah smoke is as harmful and addictive as cigarette smoke, exacerbating usage among them. The proliferation of hookah bars and lounges in California is leading to a growing public acceptance of smoking. This threatens to setback twenty years of progress in reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products and hookah by advancing the draft of the ordinance as soon as possible and voting on it, not exempting hookah tobacco products at all. Now is the time for Los Angeles to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on flavored hookah tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Melissa



October 5, 2021

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

From: Lauren Ly
Member of Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC)

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

My name is Lauren Ly and I am a member of LAYFTC and also from Rosemead High School. LAYFTC is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. 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 a damaging impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. I am concerned about these tobacco products including hookah because one study found that 15- to 23-year-olds who had never smoked cigarettes but had tried hookah were more likely to have started smoking cigarettes, become regular cigarette smokers, and smoke more cigarettes per day two years later. Additionally, tobacco is growing largely familiar with the youth which has a negative effect on their mental health.

We 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. Smoking hookah for 45-60 minutes can be equivalent to smoking 100 or more cigarettes. Additionally, many of these young people do not think that hookah smoke is as harmful and addictive as cigarette smoke, exacerbating usage among them. The proliferation of hookah bars and lounges in California is leading to a growing public acceptance of smoking. This threatens to setback twenty years of progress in reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products and hookah by advancing the draft of the ordinance as soon as possible and voting on it, not exempting hookah tobacco products at all. Now is the time for Los Angeles to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on flavored hookah tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ly



10/6/2021

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

From: Foyinsola Ani
Member of Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC)

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

My name is Foyinsola Ani and I am a member of LAYFTC and also from UCLA Anti-Vaping Champions. LAYFTC is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. 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 impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. I am concerned about these tobacco products including hookah because it can also cause serious lung inflammation and other preventable health conditions.

We 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. Smoking hookah for 45-60 minutes can be equivalent to smoking 100 or more cigarettes. Additionally, many of these young people do not think that hookah smoke is as harmful and addictive as cigarette smoke, exacerbating usage among them. The proliferation of hookah bars and lounges in California is leading to a growing public acceptance of smoking. This threatens to setback twenty years of progress in reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products and hookah by advancing the draft of the ordinance as soon as possible and voting on it, not exempting hookah tobacco products at all. Now is the time for Los Angeles to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on flavored hookah tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Foyinsola Ani



10/5/2021

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

From: Sofia Cante Member of Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC)

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

My name is Sofia Cante and I am a member of LAYFTC . LAYFTC is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. 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 impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. I am concerned about these tobacco products including hookah because people of color are discriminately targeted by tobacco companies causing them to be more likely to experience the negative health impacts they cause. At my own school I have observed how the tobacco industry has gained clients by targeting youth and I believe it's unfair for unsuspecting youth to be convinced into using tobacco products which may have lifelong impacts.

We 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. Smoking hookah for 45-60 minutes can be equivalent to smoking 100 or more cigarettes. Additionally, many of these young people do not think that hookah smoke is as harmful and addictive as cigarette smoke, exacerbating usage among them. The proliferation of hookah bars and lounges in California is leading to a growing public acceptance of smoking. This threatens to setback twenty years of progress in reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products and hookah by advancing the draft of the ordinance as soon as possible and voting on it, not exempting hookah tobacco products at all. Now is the time for Los Angeles to become a leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on flavored hookah tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sofia Cante



9/27/2021

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

From: Community Engagement Committee
Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition (LAYFTC)

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

The Community Engagement Committee of LAYFTC is committed to protecting the health and well-being of the youth and residents we serve in Los Angeles. 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 impact on the adolescent brain and cause long-term addiction. Our Community Engagement members of LAYFTC are concerned about these products because many youth are observed to be vaping due to social pressure and are not educated on the harms of these products. Furthermore, kids are vaping together in school bathrooms and this practice seems integrated into part of a sort of high school culture, where it spreads second hand-smoke and tobacco products littering in our schools. Some of our members have experienced the harms of flavored tobacco in their families and would also like to pass this knowledge of the harms to protect the youth. The harms are increased in youth and family members that have underlying health conditions and will harm them, including harms from hookah tobacco.

We 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. Smoking hookah for 45-60 minutes can be equivalent to smoking 100 or more cigarettes. Additionally, many of these young people do not think that hookah smoke is as harmful and addictive as cigarette smoke, exacerbating usage among them. The proliferation of hookah bars and lounges in California is leading to a growing public acceptance of smoking. This threatens to setback twenty years of progress in reducing tobacco-related death and disease.

We encourage the city of Los Angeles to follow the growing list of California cities that have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products and hookah by advancing the draft of the ordinance as soon as possible and voting on it, not exempting hookah tobacco products at all. Now is the time for Los Angeles to become a

leader in saving lives by protecting residents from getting hooked on flavored hookah tobacco products and a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Community Engagement of LAYFTC Members:

Andy Lau

Greg Peralta

Kiana Jokar

Ani Vartanyan

Alejandra Espinosa

Petition

Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition

Protect Los Angeles Youth from Tobacco!

Youth access to tobacco products is a serious health problem in Los Angeles. Although it is illegal to sell tobacco to youth, retailers continue to sell tobacco to minors at alarming rates.

By signing this petition you are showing your support for policies that reduce youth access to tobacco products. Together we can make a difference. Keep LA City clean, family-friendly and safe!

	Name (please print)	Signature	Over 18?	Resident Zip Code
1	Harrison Belmonte		Yes - No	90023
2	Guadalupe Mestas		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90023
3	Sullivan Hurley		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90012
4	Kevin Silva		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90049
5	Aileen Mascoso	AM	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90255
6	Diego Hernandez		Yes - <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	91106
7	Flavies Lopez		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90032
8	Brenda Bernier		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90020
9	Melanie Hernandez		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90038
10	Ferovi Firozi		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90038
11	Rosa Aguirre		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90012
12	Michel Lopez		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90255
13	Diana Turriago		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - No	90003
14			Yes - No	
15			Yes - No	

Location: Los Angeles Date: 9/1/21
City College

Petition

Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition

Protect Los Angeles Youth from Tobacco!

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	Name (please print)	Signature	Over 18?	Resident Zip Code
1	Willis	colette	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	90057
2	Sigrid	Sigrid	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	90057
3	Adam	Adam	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	90031
4	Joanne	Joanne	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	91776
5	Habib	Habib	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	90020
6	Minkyung	ED Jung	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	90011
7	Melody	Melody	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	90002
8	Karla	Karla	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	90070
9	Deyvi Perez	Deyvi Perez	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes - <input type="radio"/> No	90003
10			Yes - No	
11			Yes - No	
12			Yes - No	
13			Yes - No	
14			Yes - No	
15			Yes - No	

Location: Los Angeles Date: 9/1/21
City College