



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

December 17, 2019

Councilmember Charles Allen
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20004
callen@dccouncil.us

RE: DC Council Bill B23-0453 – the “Flavored Electronic Smoking Device Prohibition Amendment Act of 2019”

Dear Councilmember Allen,

At its regular meeting on November 20, 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With eight of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (8-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Goldin, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the youth cigarette smoking rate has dropped to a historic low of 5.8% due to a concerted effort over several decades to discourage the practice as a public health hazard,

WHEREAS, despite this success, 27.5% of young people now use e-cigarettes due to the availability of enticing flavors and aggressive marketing campaigns, both of which have been banned or severely curbed as it relates to traditional cigarettes,

WHEREAS, one JUUL pod (an e-cigarette cartridge) has the same level of nicotine as 20 cigarettes, and nicotine is a highly-addictive agent that can hook those consuming it on tobacco products for the long-term,

WHEREAS, although e-cigarettes have been pitched as a more benign alternative to traditional tobacco products, they do in fact contain carcinogens and are detrimental to public health,

WHEREAS, 97% of high school students that use e-cigarettes, use flavored products as compared to the less-palatable traditional tobacco flavor,

WHEREAS, menthol-flavored tobacco products in all varieties – marketed to young people – remain a major enticement and gateway to addiction, particularly in communities of color,



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WHEREAS, taking all flavored tobacco products off the market would dramatically lower the number of young people using tobacco products in DC by inhibiting easy access to the most appealing varieties, thereby saving lives in the long-term by making it less likely that people will become addicted in their younger, formative years, and

WHEREAS, parents, schools, students and public health organizations including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the DC Tobacco-Free Coalition, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and NAACP - DC are calling on the DC Council to take action.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to take legislative action to ban the sale of all flavored tobacco products within the District of Columbia.

Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) and William Kennedy Smith (2A04@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

William Kennedy Smith, MD
Chairperson

CC: Elizabeth Feinstone, Organizer, Flavors Hook Kids DC