



# RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By: Vetaw and Jenkins

## DECLARING MAY 21, 2023, AS NO MENTHOL SUNDAY IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

- Whereas: On Sunday, May 21, 2023, the City of Minneapolis proudly joins the Minnesota Menthol Coalition, faith leaders, friends, and families in celebrating No Menthol Sunday; and
- Whereas: No Menthol Sunday is a National Day of Observance led by The Center for Black Health and Equity and supported locally by the Minnesota Menthol Coalition and churches in Minneapolis; and
- Whereas: No Menthol Sunday is an opportunity for faith leaders to raise awareness about the negative health impacts of using commercial tobacco, including e-cigarettes and menthol products, and highlighting ways to improve health outcomes for Black Americans; and
- Whereas: This year’s theme, "Focus on Victory, Go Against the Grain" encourages residents to stand up against the tobacco industry and create healthy and just commercial tobacco-free communities; and
- Whereas: For decades, the tobacco industry has deliberately targeted Black communities, especially kids, with marketing for menthol cigarettes. In the 1950s, less than 10% of Black smokers used menthol cigarettes and today, that number is over 85%; and
- Whereas: Menthol cigarettes are a major reason why commercial tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death among Black Americans, claiming 45,000 Black lives every year; and
- Whereas: Menthol is a chemical added to cigarettes and other tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, that creates a cooling sensation. Tobacco companies intentionally design menthol products to be more appealing to youth and new smokers, more addictive, and more difficult to quit; and
- Whereas: Minneapolis was one of the first cities in the nation to restrict the sale of menthol and other flavored tobacco products to promote healthier kids and communities targeted by the tobacco industry including Black residents; and
- Whereas: We recognize that racial health disparities are not the consequence of individual habits or poor choices, but rather reflect centuries of systemic racism that we need to confront with increased access to quality healthcare and resources; and
- Whereas: We invite commercial tobacco users to seek the necessary resources they need to be successful, including free quitting help available through Minnesota’s Quit Partner, which offers one-on-one coaching and other helpful tools 24/7; and
- Whereas: Faith communities can commit to creating comfortable, safe spaces for those who struggle with nicotine addiction; and
- Whereas: One year ago, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed rules to prohibit menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. Once implemented, this policy will protect kids from tobacco addiction, advance health equity and save lives, especially among Black Americans; and
- Whereas: We must continue to uplift one another and advocate for a healthier future and put health above tobacco industry profits;

### —NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby declare May 21, 2023, as NO MENTHOL SUNDAY throughout the City of Minneapolis, and commends this observance to all its city’s residents.

Passed this the Eleventh Day of May 2023

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Andrea Jenkins, President of the Council

Approved:

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Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

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Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk