

To The Honorable: The Cambridge City Council

Dear Sirs & Madams

Attached please find our
petition against restriction
on self-service displays.

Thank

Praful Patel

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1343 Cambridge St

Cambridge, MA 02141

354-8697

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
1995 MAY -4 AM 11.43
CAMBRIDGE MA.

We want to thank you for giving this opportunity to present the retailer's point of view. The proposal would restrict displays of tobacco products in retail outlets so that they cannot be seen or reached by customers.

Let us make clear at the outset that we are neither pro nor anti-tobacco. Tobacco is legal for adults to purchase and use in every country in the world. If tobacco is ever made illegal, we will stop selling it, but that doesn't mean people will stop using it. As long as it is legal, we think responsible retailers have the right to sell the product.

We believe that this legislation insults the intelligence of the average small business person. We believe that you should not force us to pay the price of other people's obsession with banning smoking by limiting our legal displays and putting new restrictions on how to operate business.

Banning self-service displays will not, in our opinion, prevent even one minor from getting cigarettes, if he or she is determined to do so. But it will place a substantial and unfair burden on retailers.

As retailers, we recognize that it is our responsibility to make sure that minors don't purchase or steal cigarettes in our stores. But it is up to parents and teachers to make it clear that smoking is for adults only, and that it will not be tolerated. You cannot punish honest business people because there has been a breakdown in the moral authority of teachers and parents.

There is not enough money in the world to make us turn a blind eye to theft in our store. We hate being ripped off, so does every other human being, for that matter. We are not going to allow them to steal cigarettes out of our stores. Self service racks are close to register, or in line of view of the register, are safe because we always have someone at the register when there is a customer in the store.

And We are sure there are folks in this town that don't want store to sell potato chips because they contain fat which leads to obesity and heart attacks. Soda and sweets contain sugar which can cause tooth decay. Detergent can damage the environment. In fact we are sure that if you picked any product that isn't liked by at least someone in this town. The question is are you going to decide what a store can sell, even if it is legal.

Business is a heart of economy. Adding more burden will damage business, which is not good for economy. Today businesses are going through very hard time. They have high taxes, electrical, water, rent and insurance bills. Business owners are working very hard to survive, putting long hours and still struggling. Already businesses have many rules and regulations and additional rules will damage businesses. We are sure you want to bring more business to City of Cambridge not drive them out. Let businesses run without additional rules. Please do not tie their arms and legs.

Dictatorship policy is not a healthy, Freedom is healthy.

I hope you will take our concerns into account as you debate this issue. We will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Fresh pond gen 480 Concord Ave Vayle W
Cambridge MA

FRESH POND AUTO CARE 603 CONCORD AVE
FRESH POND SUPER CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

CAMBRIDGE MALL LUNCH

Peter's Footwear Inc 336 Rindge Ave J. Fenn
Cambs.

Walden St 272 Walden Street J. Fenn

Thistle & Sparrow 160 Walden St

Bradway St Lumber

HURON ST PA HURON Street

Berkton Market 134 Ave Lark

J. HANX 1120 E Huron Ave

Harvard University Boston Center

Lungie School

Two Hampshire Street

Oxford St PA

Pearl Street Mkt.

London Dry Store Boston St

Sandy's M&T Pumpco Inc.

Hymier Del

1060 Court St Camb
St C

ATOMIC SUPER MARKET

1006 CAMBRIDGE ST
CAMP.

MARTIN BROS. INC.

1144 CAMBRIDGE ST. CAMP.

SUPERIOR

MARTIN

1190 CAMBRIDGE ST

Project

LIQUORS CO

1226 Cambridge St

Charles Beer + Wine 1300 Cambridge St Camb.

Quick Food MART 1385 Cambridge St Camb.

Convenience Plus 727 Mass. Ave. Cambridge

7-11 750 MASS AVE CAMP.

VERMAS Market 896 MASS. Avenue CAMP. 02139.

MONTROSE SPA - 1646 MASS. AVE. CAMP. 02138

Montrose Food Market 950 MASS AVE CAMP. 02139

WHITE HEN 2245 MASS AVE 02140

Friendly Corner 2408 MASS AVE 02140

Norton Beverage 2451 Mass Ave 02140 Camb.

Mass Ave Finestone 2480 Mass Ave 02140 CAMP

ALBERT'S MARKET 632 CAMBRIDGE ST 02141 CAMP.

PLUS Market 873 Cambridge St Camb Mass

Luigi's Variety 520 Cambridge St. Cambridge Mass

BOBBY STORE AT THE CORNER 424 Cambridge St
CAMBRIDGE MA. Phelps Peters

Ironman Sq. Supermarket. 1343 Camb. St.

Markell Wholesale 23 Columbia St Camb.

Lynn Walsh 13 Edith St Camb, MA

HIMI'S CORNER INC Philip Mini

SAGE'S MARKETS - (7 STORES-)

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CIAMPA APOTHECARY
425 CAMBRIDGE ST.
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141
617-547-0322

Bobbs Store Nicholas Potaris Ειρήνη Πόταρη
Luigi's Variety - Katerina Mouradian

James M. M. M.

Consent COmmunication #8

\$-163

Petition received from PRAful Patel
regarding the restrictions on
self-service displays.

In City Council May 8, 1995