



CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
MEMORANDUM

June 28, 2023

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: JULIE DRIMAKIS, CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2023, 5:15 PM
CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM 7.c. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

This memorandum is to transmit public comments received.

Last Name	First Name	Subject	Type
Barbour	Lynda	7.c. Support	E-mail
Wells	Jason	7.c. Support	E-mail
Bruce	Kesa	7.c. Support	E-mail
Galvez	M. Angel	7.c. Support	E-mail
Tomono	Kiyoshi	7.c. Support	E-mail
Jamie	Jessica	7.c. Support	E-mail
Darbar	Guru	7.c. Support	E-mail
Hendrix	Ramon	7.c. Support	E-mail
Perez	Gema	7.c. Support	E-mail
Valentino	RJ	7.c. Support	E-mail
Singh	Balbir	7.c. Support	E-mail
Singh	Prabhdeep	7.c. Support	E-mail
Cornforth, M.D.	Donald	7.c. Support	E-mail
Martin	Lyle	7.c. Support	E-mail
Tamsi	Jay	7.c. Support	E-mail
Banlow	Mary	7.c. Support	E-mail
Chapman	Richard	7.c. Support	E-mail

Burke	Thomas	7.c. Support	E-mail
Lemus	Maria	7.c. Support	E-mail
Travis	Amy	7.c. Support	E-mail
Nguyen	Vinh-Linh	7.c. Support	E-mail

Attachments

The Honorable Mayor Karen Goh
City of Bakersfield
1600 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301



RE: Agenda Item 7-c Tobacco Retail License Ordinance

June 26, 2023

Dear Mayor Goh and Members of the Bakersfield City Council:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's mission is to advocate for evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone and we are committed to advancing that mission in California. We understand that Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield and almost half of the retailers sold tobacco to people under the legal age of sale. We write to lend our support for the tobacco retail license under consideration and to offer amendments that will make this ordinance as effective as possible to not only lower the illegal youth sales rates, but to reduce the odds that underage people will ever try tobacco in the first place.

The adoption of a local comprehensive TRL with strong enforcement is an effective strategy to reduce access to tobacco, especially among youth because it holds retailers that violate local, state, and federal laws accountable for their actions. We have reviewed the ordinance under consideration and are pleased to see components of a strong TRL. This includes requiring all retailers to obtain a license before selling any tobacco products, levying penalties that are meaningful and gradually stronger, up to and including suspension and eventual revocation of the license for retailers who have repeated violations, and vesting enforcement authority to public health and/or civil code enforcement. These are all best practices to assure equitable enforcement.

However, we find three important components of a strong TRL missing from the proposed ordinance and ask that council moves to amend the ordinance to add the following components: 1) Ensure an annual license fee is high enough to cover the cost of rigorous and sustainable enforcement as well as program administration. 2) Require a minimum of at least one annual one compliance check per store, with a mandatory recheck for compliance failures to enhance the likelihood that retailers will adhere to tobacco regulations. 3) The primary burden for sales to underage youth should fall on the retailer who is profiting from the sales of the product and not the non-management employee. Business owners should be held accountable for violations committed by their employees.

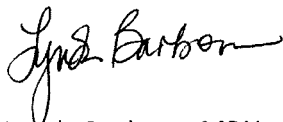
Lynda Barbour, MPH, Sr. Director, Government Relations,
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network www.FightCancer.org
PO Box 910549; San Diego, CA 92191
W: 619-624-1517 C: 619-742-4861 lynda.barbour@cancer.org

Since this council has expressed interest in protecting youth from flavored tobacco, we also recommend that you make your law even stronger than the state law by explicitly ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including flavored cigars and flavored hookah in the city. Your youth are using these products and eliminating the sale of these will reduce the chance that they become addicted to tobacco products. Flavored products continue to be one of the major lures for our young people, hooking them on a lifetime addiction to tobacco.

Another provision that this council should consider is limiting the density and location of tobacco retailers. Research shows that when tobacco retailers are located near schools or homes, youth experimentation with tobacco products increases. When retailers are located near youth focused areas, youth can be exposed to this marketing on a frequent basis. A greater availability of tobacco products is associated with both youth and adult smoking. Tobacco retailer location and density also heavily contribute to social inequities as retailers are more prevalent in lower income communities. Cities can prohibit any new retailers to locate near youth centered areas, or within 1000-feet of a school, library, park, or residential neighborhood. A city may require any new tobacco retailer to locate a minimum distance of 1000-feet from any existing tobacco retailer or cap the total number of tobacco retailer licenses at the current number.

Thank you for considering these amendments. We urge your support for a strong tobacco retail licensing ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynda Barbour". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lynda Barbour, MPH
Sr. Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

2615 Chester Avenue
P.O. Box 2615
Bakersfield, CA 93303-2615
661-395-3000



June 7, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of Adventist Health and our hospitals, clinics, imaging centers and the AIS Cancer Center in Bakersfield, I am writing to express our support for a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Decades of research and evidence shows tobacco use is a major public health concern, causing a wide range of preventable diseases and premature deaths. By regulating the sale and distribution of tobacco products through a licensing system, we can significantly reduce the accessibility and appeal of these harmful substances, especially among vulnerable populations such as kids and young adults.

Here are several key reasons why we believe a Tobacco Retail License ordinance is essential:

1. **Youth Protection:** A TRL ordinance would establish stricter controls to prevent the sale of tobacco products to minors. By requiring age verification and conducting regular compliance checks, we can curtail underage access to tobacco, reducing the likelihood of addiction and related health issues in our young population.
2. **Reduced Smoking Rates:** Studies have consistently shown that limiting tobacco availability through licensing leads to a decrease in overall smoking rates. By creating a barrier for retailers and promoting responsible practices, we can discourage smoking initiation and encourage existing smokers to quit, improving public health outcomes for our community.
3. **Community Health:** The negative health impacts of tobacco use extend beyond individual smokers. Secondhand smoke and vaping exposure harms non-smokers, causing respiratory illnesses and exacerbating existing conditions like asthma. By curbing the availability of tobacco products, we can protect the health and well-being of our entire community.
4. **Normalization of Healthier Behaviors:** By discouraging tobacco use through licensing requirements, we send a strong message to our community that smoking is not a socially acceptable behavior. This can pave the way for a cultural shift towards healthier lifestyles, reducing the social pressures and norms that perpetuate tobacco addiction.

2615 Chester Avenue
P.O. Box 2615
Bakersfield, CA 93303-2615
661-395-3000



California retailers are prohibited from selling most flavored tobacco products, including vapes and menthol cigarettes but it is up to local jurisdictions to monitor and enforce. Kern County has adopted an effective TRL program that holds stores that sell tobacco accountable to that law. The county program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on store owners/operators for repeat violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors.

Cities that adopted the county's ordinance and model of enforcement have seen significant reductions in underage tobacco sales and use. These cities include Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. To date, Bakersfield has not adopted such an ordinance and a recent youth decoy operation deployed by Kern Public Health in Bakersfield found nearly 47 percent of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor. We believe a TRL ordinance is a crucial step toward safeguarding the health and well-being of our community. By regulating the sale of tobacco products and promoting responsible retail practices, we can protect our youth, reduce smoking rates, improve public health outcomes, and foster a culture of wellness.

We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Wells

**President, Central California Network
Adventist Health**



June 28th, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council:

On behalf of the American Lung Association in California, the leading public health organization fighting to reduce and prevent the harmful effects of tobacco use, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL). With a mission of saving lives and improving the health of Californians and their lungs, the Lung Association strongly supports measures to protecting the next generation from the harms of tobacco addiction.

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes and over 9,200 kids become new daily smokers. An effective way to limit youth access to tobacco, and decrease these numbers is through the adoption of a strong tobacco retail license (TRL).

Adopting the County of Kern Tobacco Retail Ordinance would provide the City of Bakersfield with a strong enforcement protocol that exceeds the State of California Tobacco Retailer License Program. Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Each year the American Lung Association in California releases its State of Tobacco Control – California Local Grades report which grades cities and counties in California on key tobacco control policies. By adopting a tobacco retailer permitting ordinance that includes the four elements needed for a strong ordinance, Bakersfield can raise its grade from an “F” to an “A” in the Reducing Sales of Tobacco Products category, which is an outstanding improvement.

We urge the City Council to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the City of Bakersfield to help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease.

Sincerely,

Kesa Bruce

Kesa Bruce
Director, Advocacy
American Lung Association



Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

501 40th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 327-4030

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(Non-Voting)

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of Bakersfield American Indian Health Project, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Respectfully,

Mr. M. Angel Galvez, BS Criminology, MA Leadership Studies
Chief Executive Officer
Bakersfield American Indian Health Project, Inc.





BLUE ZONES PROJECT

June 28th, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of Blue Zones Project - Bakersfield, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL) ordinance.

By requiring retailers to obtain a license in the city of Bakersfield, we establish a regulatory framework that ensures compliance with existing tobacco laws, prevents illicit sales, and enables better enforcement of age restrictions. The licensing process provides an opportunity for retailers to receive education and training on the responsible sale of tobacco products. By promoting awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and highlighting the importance of compliance with relevant regulations, we can foster a culture of responsible retailing and encourage retailers to adopt best practices in preventing underage sales.

Tobacco use remains a significant public health issue, leading to numerous preventable diseases, such as lung cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disorders. Additionally, tobacco use has a detrimental impact on individuals' overall well-being and places a substantial burden on our healthcare system. By enacting a Tobacco Retailer License ordinance, our city can take proactive measures to address this issue and create a healthier environment for all residents.

We applaud the City Council for taking the initiative to consider this important public health measure. This ordinance aligns with the best practices and recommendations of leading public health organizations and has proven effective in other jurisdictions across our county. Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. Other cities that have adopted the county ordinance, such as Arvin, Delano, Shafter, and McFarland, have seen significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.



BLUE ZONES PROJECT

Blue Zones Project's goal is to improve the overall well-being of communities. Through effective and evidence-based policies such as a TRL, communities can help protect youth from accessing tobacco products that can lead to a lifetime addiction to nicotine. Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease.

Sincerely,

Kiyoshi Tomono
Executive Director
Blue Zones Project Bakersfield



June 28, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of **California State University, Bakersfield's Public Health Society (PHS)**, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,

Jessica Jaime

PHS President

April Lopez

Vice President



June 26, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of **Guru Angad Darbar Khalsa School (GADKS)**, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.



Sincerely,






GADKS Admin Team

GURU ANGAD DARBAR
KHALSA SCHOOL

8100 Stine Road Bakersfield, CA 93313

 www.GADKSCHOOL.com  info@gadkschool.com

 (661) 535-5555  (661) 899-5333

FOLLOW US ON:   



GREENFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

1624 Fairview Road
Bakersfield, CA 93307
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Superintendent

Sarah Dawson
Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum

Lucas Hogue
Assistant Superintendent
of Personnel

Vicki Norman
Assistant Superintendent
of Business

Dr. Debra Thompson
Assistant Superintendent
of Education Services

6/5/2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of The Greenfield Union School District, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ramon Hendrix
Superintendent



Fecha: 06/20/2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Estimados miembros del concejo de la ciudad de Bakersfield:

Yo, Gema Pérez, les escribo para expresar mi apoyo a la reducción de acceso de los jóvenes a los productos de tabaco, incluidos los cigarrillos electrónicos, a través de una licencia de minorista de tabaco,TRL, por sus siglas en Ingles.

Cada año en California, casi 40,000 adultos mueren por causas relacionadas con el tabaquismo y más de 12,000 niños se convierten en nuevos fumadores diarios. Desde que se publicó el primer informe del Cirujano General de EE. UU. sobre el tabaquismo y la salud en 1964, el consumo de tabaco sigue siendo la causa principal de muerte y enfermedad evitable en los Estados Unidos y sigue siendo uno de los problemas principales de salud pública de California. Este año, el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Kern llevó a cabo operaciones de señuelo con jóvenes en Bakersfield, donde el 47 % de los minoristas de tabaco vendieron tabaco a menores.

El condado de Kern tiene un programa TRL efectivo que responsabiliza a los minoristas de tabaco por las leyes locales, estatales y federales. Este programa ha ayudado a reducir el acceso de los jóvenes al tabaco en ciudades en las cuales esta ley se ha adoptado que incluye Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco y Taft. El programa TRL del condado de Kern incluye una tarifa de licencia anual lo suficientemente alta como para recuperar el costo de administración y cumplimiento, verificaciones anuales de cumplimiento y sanciones crecientes para el propietario/operador por infracciones. Estos elementos son fundamentales para garantizar que los minoristas de productos de tabaco y cigarrillos electrónicos no vendan a menores. Los resultados de las comunidades locales en las cuales han adoptado políticas TRL bien aplicadas con estos elementos demuestran disminuciones significativas en las ventas ilegales de tabaco a menores y el consumo de tabaco entre jóvenes.

Juntos, un TRL para la ciudad de Bakersfield ayudará a proteger a los jóvenes de Bakersfield de la adicción a la nicotina y de las enfermedades y muertes relacionadas con el tabaco. Le insisto que
Código Postal: 93307

adopte la ordenanza de Licencia de Minorista de Tabaco del Condado de Kern para la ciudad de Bakersfield.

Sinceramente,

Gema Pérez

Executive Director for Greenfield Walking Group

Grimm Family
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

June 28, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

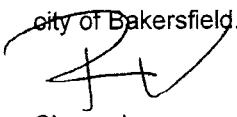
Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of the Grimm Family Education Foundation, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.



Sincerely,
RJ Valentino
President



Gurdwara Guru Angad Darbar, Inc.



A Registered Non-Profit Religious Tax Exempt Corporation
8100 Stine road, Bakersfield, CA. 93313
TELEPHONE: (661) 396-2775 REGD. NUMBER: C2243179 FED. TAX I.D. 77-0547453

June 26, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

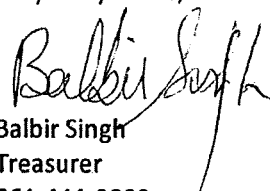
On behalf of **Gurdwara Guru Angad Darbar**, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

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Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Very Truly Yours,


Balbir Singh
Treasurer
661-444-3902



ਮੌ

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਸਮੇਸ਼ ਦਰਬਾਰ, ਬੈਕਰਸਫੀਲਡ

GURDWARA GURU DASMESH DARBAR, BAKERSFIELD

7000 WIBLE ROAD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

June 28, 2023
Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of **Gurdwara Guru Dasmesh Darbar**, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

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Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,

Prabhdeep Singh
President of Gurdwara Committee

June 7, 2023
Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of ***Incentive Health IPA***, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

As a radiologist practicing here in Kern County, I have seen personally the results of smoking in our community with all of its devastating injuries to the lungs, hearts, and blood vessels resulting in early deaths and disabilities. We must do more to curb the access of tobacco to our youth.

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,
Donald Cornforth, M.D
President, Incentive Health IPA

June 15, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of Indurance Concepts, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

I have personally and professionally witnessed how grants such as these strengthen our community. Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,


Lyle D. Martin, CEO Indurance Concepts
Chief of Police Bakersfield (ret.)



June 6, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Tamsi".

Jay Tamsi, President/CEO
Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

June 21, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of Kern County Superintendent of Schools, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the City of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,



Mary C. Barlow, Ed.D.
Kern County Superintendent of Schools



June 23, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of the Kern Economic Development Foundation (KEDF), I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

KEDF is a research-based and educational 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that aids Kern County businesses and communities in reaching their full economic potential. KEDF links business, education, and the community on projects relating to STEM education and local workforce and professional development.

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 children become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. Recently, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that has reduced youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the City of Bakersfield.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this highly important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Chapman", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Richard Chapman
Executive Director

June 12, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

I am writing to express support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Burke
Chancellor Emeritus and Interim Chancellor
Kern Community College District

Visión y Compromiso™



June 16, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of Visión y Compromiso, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

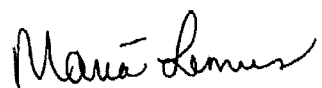
Established in 2000, Visión y Compromiso is a statewide network of promotores and other community workers who live and work in their own community or a similar community nearby. They share information and resources with other residents to increase access to and understanding of health, education and legal systems. Providing servicio de corazón (heartfelt services), promotores are advocates for healthy and dignified living for all.

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

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Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,



Executive Director
Visión y Compromiso
maria @visionycompromiso.org



2724 L Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
661.328.8888
661.328.8880 fax
www.first5kern.org

June 28, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Commissioners

John Nilon
Chair
Debbie Wood
Vice Chairperson

Jennie Sill
Secretary

Brynn Carrigan
Treasurer

Supervisor Leticia Perez

Lito Morillo

Aaron Resendez

Deborah Murr

Lisa Gilbert, Ed.D.

Alternate Commissioners

Supervisor Phillip Peters

Maria Bermudez

Ana Mena, Psy.D

Amy Rutledge

Executive Director

Amy Travis

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of First 5 Kern, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds tobacco retailers accountable for local, state, and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco, and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal tobacco sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine addiction and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,

Amy Travis, Executive Director
First 5 Kern

Blood And Cancer Therapeutics

4500 Morning Drive Suite 105 • Bakersfield • CA 93306

Tel: (661) 491-5060 • Fax: (661) 379-6363

June 22, 2023

Bakersfield City Council
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Members of the Bakersfield City Council,

On behalf of Blood and Cancer Therapeutics, I am writing to express our support for reducing youth access to tobacco products including e-cigarettes through a Tobacco Retailer License (TRL).

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 12,000 kids become new daily smokers. Since the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health was published in 1964, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and remains one of California's leading public health issues. This year, Kern County Public Health conducted youth decoy operations in Bakersfield where 47% of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco to a minor.

Kern County has an effective TRL program that holds retailers accountable for local, state and federal laws. This program has helped in reducing youth access to tobacco in cities that have adopted the county ordinance which includes Arvin, Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi, California City, McFarland, Wasco and Taft. The Kern County TRL program includes an annual license fee high enough to recover the cost of administration and enforcement, annual compliance checks, and escalating penalties on the owner/operator for violations. These elements are critical to ensuring retailers of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are not selling to minors. Results from local communities that have adopted well-enforced TRL policies with these elements demonstrate significant decreases in illegal sales to minors and youth tobacco use.

Together, a strong TRL will help protect Bakersfield youth from nicotine and tobacco-related death and disease. We urge you to adopt the Kern County Tobacco Retailer License ordinance for the city of Bakersfield.

Sincerely,

Vinh-Linh Nguyen M.D.


Blood And Cancer Therapeutics

Office address: 4500 Morning Drive #105 Bakersfield, CA 93306

Phone: 661-491-5060

Fax: 661-379-6363