



Dear City of Milwaukee and the Department of Administration:

The Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network, a coalition dedicated to supporting local communities in eliminating tobacco related harm, supports the City of Milwaukee's effort to address the problems related to youth vaping and the negative effects of nicotine addiction on adolescents. Our coalition has worked with the project leader at the City of Milwaukee Office of African American Affairs for years and consider Mr. Davidson, trained in the American Lung Association Freedom From Smoking Program, to be an essential contributor to our community advisory board.

Milwaukee has one of the largest disparities in tobacco use based on racial demographics. According to the 2023 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the same can be said about the rise in vaping among the African American and Hispanic Latino high school population. There is less data and education about the harmful effects of vaping because there is confusing information in the messaging. Presently our collaborative has presented data and training to youth, adults, and organizations to encourage appropriate programming that will result in positive outcomes. This seems to be an opportunity to make an impact that will last for generations and we support the organizing efforts that will lead to more awareness, prevention education and campaigns to restrict youth access to harmful tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Systems.

We are aware of the Wisconsin Department of Health recommendations regarding the settlement due to harmful practices and marketing to underage consumers. We represent multiple community voices who want to see a commitment to supporting and expanding existing efforts and training to change the direction of this awful trend. We are committed to helping disseminate information and promoting the types of data collection needed for proper programming and campaign activities.

Closing the gaps will require multiple simultaneous efforts and time organize groups, schools, parents and students to understand and move forward with action on this topic. We want to succeed with this project and support it.

Thank you and please keep our Network updated on the progress with this work.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Lathen, Director

Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network