Attachment 1
To our Friends and Loyal Customers:

With saddened hearts, we want to let you know that, after 68 years in the same Beverly Hills location, our family owned business, Kramer's Pipe & Tobacco Shop, will be closing its doors December 31.

It is bitter-sweet for Jim and me, but times change and we are looking forward.

We are forever grateful to the Glassell and the Tronstein families, our landlords for 65 years, their care and friendship meant the world to my parents and to us. They were an important part of building and preserving the village of Beverly Hills, which was referred to in a recent Beverly Hills Courier editorial, ending with "Despite all the rhetoric, about Beverly Hills being a 'village', there is very little 'village' left."

Our decision was made, and made easier for us to accept, due to many factors:
1) CA state Tobacco Taxes (now 67% - which lumps together pipe tobacco & cigars with cigarettes. What other legal product do we tax so high?) causing people to buy out of state - over the internet. (It appears that marijuana will be taxed at a lower rate in CA come January!)

2) new pending FDA regulations which would make it nearly impossible for small shops to blend pipe tobacco,

3) both city and state restrictions/legislations – that, in our opinion, unfortunately have gone way overboard in their rulings regarding, again, a legal product,

4) the city deeming it necessary for construction purposes, and seemingly their only choice, to remove our on-street metered parking since the beginning of this year - turning Little Santa Monica into a virtual freeway - to the total dismay of small businesses lining our street,

and mostly 5) the end of our lease.

One saving grace is my father's 7 private house pipe tobacco blends (from the early 1950's) now having a new life (with our exact formulas and same blending tobaccos) on-line at smokingpipes.com under Kramer's Pipe and Tobacco. Sykes Wilford, Rick Newcombe, and Brian Levine - you gave my father's legacy a chance to live on.

Good-byes are too hard. I know we will see many of you. And we are keeping our website (kramerstobaccoshop.com), email (kramerstobaccoshop@prodigy.net), and our Facebook page (Kramers Pipe & Tobacco Shop) going.

Thank you from the depths of our hearts - and my parents' hearts - for your support and loyalty.

With a flood of warm memories of our neighbors, salespeople, customers, and friends throughout the years ~

Big Thanks,

Marsha Kramer Keller and Jim Keller
To: Beverly Hills City Council Health and Safety Commission  
From: Chaha Basmajian  
Date: November 29, 2017  
Subject: Flavored Tobacco Products

I oppose any additional local restrictions on the sale of tobacco and urge the City Council to reject the Health Department’s request to ban the sale of flavored tobacco in Beverly Hills.

I am an extremely responsible retailer and have been in business in Beverly Hills for over 27 years on Robertson Blvd. This ban will inconvenience my customers and hurt my bottom line. As more and more people shop for everything online, I cannot afford to lose the right to sell legal products because the County Health Department thinks I sell cigarettes and cigars to kids. I do not.

Why is the Health Department asking me to remove tobacco from my shelves while the state is getting ready legalize marijuana? Tobacco and alcohol are highly regulated products. Marijuana is a Schedule 1 controlled substance and yet I read about cities rushing to pass ordinances to allow for the sale of recreational marijuana. Are you telling me that smoking marijuana is harmless and non-addictive? That flavored marijuana and edibles are not attractive to kids? Why is the Health Department so focused on tobacco and silent about marijuana? These policies make absolutely no sense and I urge the City Council to reject any additional regulation of tobacco products.

cc: Beverly Hills City Council
November 29, 2017

Beverly Hills City Council
Health and Safety Commission Liaison
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills CA 90210

Re: Flavored Tobacco Products

Dear City Council and Commission Members,

Vendome Wine and Spirits has been a member of the Beverly Hills community for over 25 years. Our current location, at 270 S. Robertson Blvd. is across the street from the City of Los Angeles.

The holidays are the busiest time of year for my business and I cannot believe you are holding a hearing on an issue that impacts businesses like mine between Thanksgiving and New Years. You must not really be interested in receiving input from the business community — especially since the staff memo states that the Health Department staff has already met with 3 members of the City Council. Just enough votes to pass this unnecessary piece of legislation.

If flavored tobacco is banned in Beverly Hills, my customers will literally walk across the street to Los Angeles to purchase it. I am a responsible retailer and I do not sell tobacco or alcohol to minors. I sell a variety of tobacco products, including cigarettes and cigars. These products comprise approximately 10 percent of my business.

If I can't sell these tobacco products in my store, customers who come into my store to purchase cigars, wine, and spirits will take their business to Los Angeles or online where no one verifies the age of purchase. The financial loss to my business is not just tobacco sales; it is all the ancillary sales of wine and spirits that I will lose along with it.

Businesses like mine have to rely upon our elected officials to weigh all the facts and evaluate the impact these types of policies will have on local businesses. Rather than assume that all businesses are bad actors, perhaps the Council should consider imposing these types of bans only on businesses that fail to follow the rules.

I urge you to reject this unnecessary sales ban.

Sincerely,

Keith Chan
Hello,

As a resident of Beverly Hills County, I’m writing to respectfully express my concern for the tobacco flavor ban under consideration.

This ordinance will cause more harm than good in our community in multiple ways, including:

- Driving business to surrounding communities that are still allowed to sell flavored tobacco products, which gives them an unfair competitive advantage.
- Providing surrounding businesses an unfair competitive advantage by forcing us to sell our products at a higher price.
- Forcing police departments to regulate a new tobacco ordinance while issues with opioid abuse and homicide continue to plague our country.
- Opening up an opportunity for criminals to sell the newly banned flavored tobacco products illegally on the black market, which can result in an increase in crime and violence, without reducing youth access.

Additionally, this ordinance limits the freedoms and choices of legal adults who can get married, serve our country and vote for leaders, such as yourself.

While I understand the concern of youth tobacco use, please rest assured we do not sell tobacco to minors. In fact, we go through extensive training to keep tobacco products away from underage individuals.

We are doing our part to keep tobacco out of the hands of our community’s youth by not selling to minors. I am in favor of any laws that will keep children from using tobacco, but I can’t support an ordinance that doesn’t support my livelihood.

For the sake of Beverly Hills County community and local businesses, please vote no on the tobacco flavor ban under consideration.

Thank you, Beverly Hills