



MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER

— DISTRICT 10 —

****STATEMENT****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Ridley-Thomas' Statement on LA City Council's Approval of a Citywide Ordinance to Ban Flavored Tobacco Products

“Equity matters - and health status is a key indicator of equity. The negative health impacts associated with tobacco use are indisputable. As the use of flavored tobacco and vaping continues to rise, we know that our youth are the ones most vulnerable to the appeal and susceptible to its detrimental impacts. That’s why it is so important that we curb the sale of these products which are marketed with one simple objective - to entice and entrap youth consumption.

I am proud of the work I did on this issue on the County of Los Angeles’ Board of Supervisors, which adopted an ordinance in 2019 to comprehensively control tobacco use - an approach consistent with what the Los Angeles City Council has advanced today. We must do what is necessary to protect our kids from a potentially lifelong addiction to nicotine. History has clearly shown us what harmful effects cigarettes, and particularly menthol ones, have had, particularly on the Black community, and it is up to us, to prevent the repetition of such past inequities.”

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