



City Council
May 19, 2020

Addendum #1

From: [Scott Petty](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Tobacco Tax
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:11:02 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please exempt premium cigars and pipe tobacco from the proposed tobacco tax. I spend a lot of disposable income in Louisville CO on small businesses of various kinds there and would be devastated if they were to put premium cigars in this tax category as it would close some small businesses.

Regards,
Scott Petty

From: [Scott Gregory](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Tobacco Tax
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:21:49 PM

Please exempt premium cigars and pipe tobacco from the proposed tobacco tax

Thanks
Scott

From: [Anthony Feliciano](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: I'm opposed to the tobacco tax
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:31:16 PM

Dear Louisville Council:

I'm opposed to the 40% tobacco tax being proposed. As someone who moved from NYC to here. ive seen what high taxes on cigars to local shops. A couple of my fav local shops closed as a result. I took my business out of state because the city got "greedy" and forced them out of business. These shops are vital to the community feel, and meeting new people.

I have found that here. In 3 short years the local tobacco shops have become my new friends. They welcomed me and shared stories over cigars.

Its not only shops that hurt, its local restaurants as well. Many times before heading to shop, i often stop for beer at gravity or take some to go on my way to the shop. Food as well. Mile High Pho, Parma, Murphys Tap house, etc, in the area are apart of weekly routines. So, there is a greater ripple effect than just 40% when a business closes. You eventually have to tax more because when a place closes, the surrounding business that benefited from that establishment no longer do as well, and the tax revenue is gone.

Everyone knows its easier and cheaper to buy on internet and ship home. At a time when small businesses need help, increase in taxes is not going to. These are places where people from the community get together and meet new people, even a NY'er myself. If these places go away, the community suffers as a whole. The ties and bonds disappear. Resent grows and people move on. Louisville is a great small town, with a lot of charm and places to eat, meet, and smoke.

I urge with great repsect, someone whos witnessed it in NY. Please reconsider the 40% tobacco sales tax.

Do it for the community. Let us keep our bonds going for years to come.

Thank you for your time.

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From: [Thomas Buck](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Tobacco Tax
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:01:53 PM

Hello, please exclude all natural cigars from the tobacco tax. I find that cigars help put me in a more relaxed state and helps me be more mindful of those around me. I have also found a great sense of community at the local cigar lounge, which could be put out of business from this tax increase.

From: [John Rommelfanger](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [John Rommelfanger](#)
Subject: Tax Increase on Premium Cigars
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:43:33 PM

Louisville City Council members,

My name is John Rommelfanger and until recently I lived in the City of Louisville. During that time I served on the Local Licensing Authority as a member and several terms as the Chairperson. I currently serve on the City of Westminster Special Permits and Licensing Authority . I have served the Seniors of Louisville as a member of Congressman's Polis's Sage Council and currently I serve on Congressman Neguse's Senior Advisory Council. While I do not live within the City limits of Louisville I make numerous trips to "our" city and specifically to the "Manor" and other businesses within the city. I can't tell you the number of lunches and dinners and comradery the patrons of the "Manor" have enjoyed while enjoying a premium cigar purchased from the "Manor. If this tax increase passes the city will not be the better for it as it is likely they will not be able to continue to serve the citizens of Louisville and in my case surrounding cities to say nothing of the jobs that will be lost. I ask that you keep the above in mind when considering a tax increase that might well have a negative impact on the City that we all love.

John Rommelfanger

From: [J & M BELCASTRO](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Tobacco Tax
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:38:06 PM

Dear Louisville Council:

I am opposed to the proposed tobacco tax on Premium Cigars and Pipe tobacco. I am a long time customer of Havana Manor in Louisville and this tax increase would impose a real penalty on them. They are a small, family owned business, the type Louisville is known for, and would in all likelihood put them out of business, especially coming right after having been closed due to the pandemic.

Thank you,

John S. Belcastro

From: [Todd R](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Tobacco tax proposal
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:59:13 PM

Dear Louisville Council:

I wanted to send a brief email to ask that you consider and support a clarification/ amendment to the tobacco tax being reviewed. I ask that it specifically exempt premium cigars and pipe tobacco from the proposed tobacco tax. I have frequented a Louisville establishment for more than a decade (Havana Manor) that would be closed by its inclusion. This would affect not only the specific business and jobs, but would remove a lot of my other purchases and activities in the Louisville area, as the fellowship in the store is what brings me into the city limits.

Thank you for your valued time and consideration.

Sincerely,

-Todd Rightler
Arvada, CO

From: [Peter Navarro](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Tobacco Tax - Potential ballot measures
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:57:24 PM

Good afternoon,

I am compelled to urge you against imposing an additional tax on tobacco products.

Rather than generating municipal income, this tax would serve to diminish Louisville-based tobacco related commerce. Don't make the mistake that I'm suggesting smokers will stop smoking as a result of the tax. Studies show that increased tobacco taxes do not significantly contribute to cessation in smoking (National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 18326, August 2012). In this case, it seems more likely an additional tax would either drive tobacco sales to other local municipalities or force Louisville tobacco purveyors out of business. (It's true; ask them.)

In fact, imposing this tax would assure the loss of another source of tobacco-based revenue. Doing so would disqualify the City from receiving its share-back allotment of the state imposed cigarette tax.

As a cigar smoker who works and shops in Louisville, I petition you to forego further consideration of a municipal tobacco tax.

With thanks for your kind consideration,

Pete Navarro
Frequent Patron of Havana Manor, Louisville, Colorado

From: [Rick Staufer](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed city tax on tobacco products
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:10:06 PM

I strongly opposed additional taxes on premium tobacco products. I believe this text will have a reverse effect that it is intended to have. Tobacco shops operate on the thinnest margins already. And it is likely to put them out of business. This would have the reverse effect on generating tax dollars. At least now the business generates property taxes.

Take care,

Rick

Richard A. Staufer, M.S., GRI, CNE, GREEN, C.I.P.S.
Broker Associate, Owner
Staufer Team Real Estate

From: [Quinn Lods](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Tobacco Tax on agenda item 7c
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:31:49 PM

Good afternoon Council members,

I am writing to you to talk about my concerns and thoughts about the potential tobacco tax that you will be talking about this evening. Within the city of Louisville is Havana Manor. They have been open for over 13 years serving customers premium handmade cigars and pipe tobacco. I have been a frequent customer and locker member at Havana Manor for over 4 years. Havana Manor is my main source for premium cigars here in Colorado. They price cigars and pipe tobacco the best they can given the current 40% excise tax plus sales tax at the register.

Over the 4 years of enjoying Havana Manor I have made a number of friends. We sit and enjoy cigars while talking about any and every topic. One of the best parts about enjoying cigars in a lounge is the fact we are all there to do the same thing. It doesn't matter what you do for a living, where you live what you look like. Everyone is friendly and always inviting.

After reading through the bill details, I ask you to consider exempting premium handmade cigars and pipe tobacco from your tax bill. I don't feel that cigars and pipe tobacco are in the same category as cigarettes, chew and vaping products. The camaraderie and experiences that come from cigars are unmatched. You also listed a number of other cities and counties that have implemented their own tobacco tax. I know of only one or two small cigar retailers in those that were listed. They aren't standalone cigar and pipe tobacco shops. They mostly sell cigarettes and vape products and happen to carry some premium cigars. Those type of taxes would completely crush Havana Manor to the point they couldn't stay open.

Again please consider exempting premium handmade cigars and pipe tobacco from your tax bill. Havana Manor is one of the best shops in Colorado, and I don't want to lose it.

Respectfully,

Quinn Lods

From: [John Willson](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Clarification
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 4:34:30 PM

Good Evening Ms. Mayor and the rest of the City Council,

Just a quick clarification on the Packet Addendum #1 for Tuesday night meeting (May 19th) . The second email is not from this John Willson. First of all I have two "LL" in my last name and I don't smoke. Thank you for your time.

John Willson
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