

ATTACHMENT

For Item

30

TUESDAY
April 30, 2024

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD



April 26, 2024

Supervisor Nora Vargas
County Administration Office
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

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Arkan Somo

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Re: Tobacco Retailing Licensing Renewal Fees and Policy

The Honorable Nora Vargas,

On behalf of the Neighborhood Market Association's leadership and members, we are in support of the County Board of Supervisors vote this Tuesday to approve the staff's recommendation for the TRL renewal fees. We note that the fees remain above average in comparison to other cities, and we are most concerned about the renewal policy that the county staff plans to implement.

A couple of weeks ago, our office received many calls from retailers sharing their concerns regarding the information they had received from county representatives regarding the TRL renewal policy. We reached out to Ms. Hazell Belvin, MPH, CHES®, Community Health Program Specialist, and asked for a response. Please see enclosed copy of her response.

We vehemently oppose staff policy stating that, "Retailers have 20 days to complete and submit a renewal application, fee payment, and a copy of their current state tobacco license. Existing licensed retailers who fail to renew their license by May 21, **will automatically forfeit their pre-existing status.**"

This policy deviates from similar policies governing all other county licenses and permits (i.e. Health Permits, Weight & Measure, Under Storage Tank Permits, Business Licenses, etc). None of retailers that have these permits and licenses ever lose them automatically and forfeit their pre-existing status because they fail to submit their application and payment within 20 days.

The NMA respectfully requests that the San Diego Board of Supervisors direct staff to make the TRL renewal policy consistent with all other county renewal policies. We also urge you to consider placing Code Compliance in charge of the TRL licensing.

Please, contact me at 619-977-8485 if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Arkan Somo
President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Joel Anderson, The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer,
The Honorable Monica Montgomery Steppe, The Honorable Jim Desmond



99+



Mail

Chat

Meet

On Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 8:05 PM BELVIN, HAZELL <HAZELL.BELVIN1@sdcounty.ca.gov> wrote:

Hi Arkan,

Thank you for your email. Below I have answered your questions in blue font.

- The County will mail the renewal TRL forms to retailers 20-30 days before it's due. **No, letters will be mailed to all retailers eligible for a County tobacco licens TRLP staff will be available upon request to provide assistance to retailers that need help in completing their application and submitting their payment.**
- Retailers were told they will have a 20 days window to pay their tobacco license **Retailers have a 20-day period to submit their complete application, paym submit their application(s) and copy(ies) of their current State tobacco license.**
- If retailers don't pay within that period, they will loss their tobacco license. **Retailers must complete and submit a renewal application, fee payment, and coj automatically forfeit their pre-existing status. Licenses will be denied for any retailers in the unincorporated area who are within 500 feet of another licensc**
- Retailers requested if they can receive the form earlier and pay the fees. They were told they couldn't. **It's best that payments be submitted with application accepted but will not be processed until the corresponding applications have been received. We understand that some people own multiple tobacco retail s upcoming fiscal year is currently undergoing the final stages of our internal review and approval process. It will be available on the County website [Tobacc**
- Some asked if they can go on-line and pay the fees now. They were told they couldn't **As mentioned earlier, it is preferred that retailers not submit their pay application has been received.**
- Some retailers were told the Renewal Form on the County website is not up-to-date and couldn't be used. **And if they use it they will not be accepted, there fiscal year and is not applicable for the upcoming fiscal year licenses that will be effective July 1, 2024. Applications cannot be accepted before May 1st d that, "a license may be renewed by filing a renewal application not more than 60 days and not less than 40 days prior to the expiration date."**
- The County is still working on the new and updated form and there was no date given to when it will be ready. **That is correct it is currently in final review ar**
- Another question has been asked regarding the same owner who has been at the same location for over twenty years and he would like to incorporate his bu the information is accurate, correct? **Unfortunately, he will be considered a new owner and there is no guarantee he will be able to renew his license. Retailer business. If the retail location is within 500-ft of another licensed retailer's parcel, then their license will be denied. If there isn't a licensed tobacco retailer wil**

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Hazell A. Belvin, MPH, CHES®, Community Health Program Specialist
Pronouns: She/her/hers
 Public Health Services - Maternal, Child, and Family Health Services
 Chronic Disease and Health Equity Unit
 County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency
 (833) THE-TRLP or (833) 843-8757

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