



# THIRU MAYOR

## ENDING THE E-CIGARETTE EPIDEMIC

### Baltimore will ban flavored tobacco products including e-cigarettes

As the FDA and CDC have cautioned, flavored vaping and tobacco products, like cigarillos and menthol cigarettes, present a grave health risk, particularly to children. It is no accident the use of e-cigarettes and vapes among young people has exploded, as 7 out of 10 teens are exposed to e-cigarette ads. Major e-cigarette makers are pushing colorful tobacco products, using mobile platforms like YouTube and Twitter, and promoting teen-friendly flavors. Already, 14% of high school students use e-cigarettes—and more than 60 toxins have been identified in liquid flavored products. Baltimore should follow cities from San Francisco to Chicago to Minneapolis, which have prohibited flavored products to protect their citizens and children.

### Enact complete prohibition of e-cigarettes in indoor public spaces

The CDC has reported that e-cigarettes not only contain nicotine, but also have lead, nickel, tin, volatile organic compounds, and diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease. Secondary aerosol inhalation increases the risks of asthma in young children, sudden infant death syndrome, and respiratory symptoms and infections. Baltimore should build on its partial indoor prohibition, close the loopholes, and forbid smoking of e-cigarettes in all places cigarette smoke is banned, including bars and restaurants.

### Initiate city lawsuit against e-cigarette manufacturer JUUL

New York City and DC recently filed major lawsuits against JUUL for illegally targeting youth and intentionally misleading consumers about the consequences of its products. According to the CDC, a single JUUL or e-liquid pod contains the same amount of nicotine as roughly 20 packs of cigarettes. Just as we sued drug companies for fueling the opioid crisis, Baltimore should join the movement of cities suing this industry for creating the latest youth health crisis.

### Impose tax on e-cigarettes to fund children's health screenings at city elementary schools

Like neighboring locales, Baltimore should impose a 50% wholesale tax on vaping products (between Montgomery County's 30% and DC's 96%), plus an additional \$0.10/mL tax on e-liquids containing nicotine. The tax proceeds would pay for comprehensive health screenings of city elementary school children, as well as youth prevention efforts and treatment for those addicted.

### Keep tobacco money out, refuse campaign donations from industry and lobbyists

Our campaign pledges to refuse political donations from tobacco and e-cigarette companies, as well as from their executives and lobbyists. The tobacco industry has made significant contributions to Baltimore leaders in order to block regulations that would protect our children from their harmful products. Citizens deserve to know that their health and safety comes first, not campaign finances and industry profits.



"Vignarajah's aggressive plan to stop JUUL and the other tobacco companies will put Baltimore at the forefront of protecting the public from the dangerous and addictive e-cigarettes that are expanding the tobacco epidemic."