

From: Laura Vlasuk <lvlasuk@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>

Sent: Jun 23, 2025 20:18:03.000000000 UTC

Subject: RE: good news from Malden tobacco retailer store inspections

To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>

Maureen
What can you tell me about Big Mike's?
Did they pay there fine?
Was there another inspection?
How many violations have they had?

Laura Vlasuk

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 1:15 PM
To: Laura Vlasuk <lvlasuk@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: FW: good news from Malden tobacco retailer store inspections

Hi Laura,
Should have copied you on this.
I was just providing the state tobacco program management folks an update on how NFG is going locally. You know, they are in their ivory tower at 250 Washington St. and really have no idea unless we tell them.
😊
Maureen

From: Buzby, Maureen
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 12:16 PM
To: Brush, Mary (DPH) <mary.brush@mass.gov>; Depina, Zendilli M (DPH) <zendilli.m.depina@mass.gov>; Jackie Doane <jdoane@baystatecs.org>
Cc: Chui, Anthony <achui@CityofMelrose.org>; gracetodome581@gmail.com
Subject: good news from Malden tobacco retailer store inspections

This is more than you probably want to know but in case this is of interest:

This is my month to complete inspections of Malden retail stores. I've made so many visits in the past year that I feel like I must have already done these inspections. 😊

I did at least four visits during the NFG rollout, prior to this round of inspections:

- . A regular Inspection
- . Delivery of a notice letting retailers know about NFG
- . Delivery of the notice of the public hearing.
- . Delivery of the new signs.

Then at least two letters mailed: One reminding retailers that Malden has a new Tobacco Sales Regulation, and one with "tips" for staff training closer to the effective date.

Today I was shadowed by our summer intern Grace, who is finishing up her MPH.

She and I were both surprised at how quickly, easily, and correctly, retailers answered the questions, "What do you do when a customer asks for a tobacco product?"

I'm so impressed. A couple of dozen inspections in the past few days – all but one answered correctly.

One liquor store manager told me that when there is a combo purchase, they have the staff ring them up separately - - alcohol sale separate from tobacco sale.

Some check the scanner to see if a license is valid but then check the birthdate separately because the scanning technology hasn't caught up with the new policy.

Some had their own signs in addition to signs I gave them.

In several stores I asked if they've had any issues. All reported "not really", or words to that effect. Most said they just say it's a City of Malden rule. No one was irritated or annoyed. No lectures. Very uneventful.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Maureen

Maureen Buzby
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