



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

September 16, 2025

Resolution finding an employee sold tobacco to a minor and assessing a \$300.00 civil penalty against Almost Paradise Mini.

Prepared By: Rebecca Passavant, Iowa City Attorney's Office
Administrative Secretary

Reviewed By: Jennifer L. Schwickerath, Assistant City Attorney

Fiscal Impact: No impact

Staff Recommendation: Approval

Attachments: [Resolution](#)

Executive Summary:

Iowa Code Section 453A.22(2) provides that, after a hearing, a civil penalty shall be assessed when an employee of a retailer violates Iowa Code Section 453A.2(1) by selling or providing tobacco to a minor. This hearing is the time designated for the Council to determine if a violation occurred and then to consider whether to assess the civil penalty against Almost Paradise Mini, 125 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City. The civil penalty for a first violation within a two-year period is \$300.00.

Background / Analysis:

An employee of Almost Paradise Mini sold tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, vapor products, or cigarettes to a minor on January 31, 2025. The employee was cited for providing tobacco to a minor in violation of Iowa Code Section 453A.2(1). The citation against the employee was dismissed, not because the sale did not take place, but because of witness unavailability. Iowa Code Section 453A.22(2) uses "violated" as the trigger for proceeding with civil penalties, as opposed to "convicted," therefore, if the Council determines that an illegal sale occurred, it is appropriate for the Council to move forward with the civil penalty for a first violation.