

# Doc

## Doctors Ought to Care

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The Honorable Eleanor Tinsley  
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Councilwoman Tinsley:

As you know, I deeply admire and fully support you in your present, and future, governmental roles. I also appreciate the personal warmth and good cheer you have shown to me as a fairly recent citizen of Houston. Your leadership in the effort to improve the health and well-being of Houstonians is a model for civic leaders throughout the nation.

Consequently, I was troubled and disheartened by news that you intend to appear at a cigarette sponsored sporting event to receive a donation for a literacy organization. I can think of no greater public relations coup for Philip Morris than for one of the most ardent proponents of good health and opponents of smoking to accept such tainted money.

I, too, have other civic interests, especially in the health of Black Americans. But for the life of me I cannot imagine compromising my integrity by ever allowing a tobacco company to use me in order to hand over a check to even the most pressing of causes.