

RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE INVESTIGATION AND ARREST OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WITH THE PERSONAL USE, GROWTH, AND POSSESSION OF ENTHEOGENIC PLANTS, INCLUDING THOSE SCHEDULED AT STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS, BE THE LOWEST PRIORITY FOR THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

WHEREAS, Entheogenic Plants, defined herein as the full spectrum of plants, fungi, and natural materials and/or their extracted compounds, limited to those containing the following types of compounds: indole amines, tryptamines, and phenethylamines; that can benefit psychological and physical wellness², support and enhance religious and spiritual practices¹⁷, and can reestablish human's inalienable and direct relationship to nature; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse, addiction, recidivism, trauma, post-traumatic stress symptoms, chronic depression, severe anxiety, end-of-life anxiety, grief, cluster headaches^{9;23}, and other debilitating conditions are present in our community; and

WHEREAS, the use of Entheogenic Plants, which can catalyze profound experiences of personal and spiritual growth¹, have been shown by scientific and clinical studies and traditional practices to be beneficial to the health and well-being of individuals and communities¹⁷ in addressing these conditions⁷; and

WHEREAS, practices with Entheogenic Plants have long existed and have been considered to be sacred to human cultures and interrelationships with nature for thousands of years¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, individuals seeking to improve their health and well-being through the use of Entheogenic Plants fear arrest and prosecution due to current legal prohibitions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor currently has many other priorities for the use of its funds, staff, and law enforcement resources; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations considers Entheogenic Plant material used for ritual purposes as excluded from Schedule 1 substances; and

WHEREAS, the Entheogenic Plant practices of certain groups are already explicitly protected in the U.S. under the principle of religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, Entheogenic plants such as Ibogaine have been shown to alleviate treatment resistant cases of opiate and methamphetamine addiction at higher rates than other treatment; and

WHEREAS, Entheogenic Plants or combinations of plants such as Ayahuasca contain Dimethyltryptamine (a naturally occurring compound in the human body) that can be beneficial in treating addiction, depression, and in catalyzing profound experiences of personal and spiritual growth¹; and

WHEREAS, Entheogenic plants such as cacti that contain phenethylamine compounds (such as mescaline), can be beneficial in the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction and for individual spiritual growth¹, and have been utilized in sacred initiation and community healing by diverse religious and cultural traditions for millennia and continue to be used for healing and as religious sacraments in modern times¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, psilocybin, naturally occurring in Entheogenic mushrooms, can alleviate end-of-life anxiety⁶ for hospice and terminal cancer patients, can reduce prison recidivism⁵; ²¹, can effectively treat substance abuse⁴, depression, and cluster headaches (a Johns Hopkins University study on "healthy-normals," found that Entheogenic plants can occasion mystical-type experiences, which were considered one of the top five most meaningful experiences in a subject's life, and positive life-style changes continued in a 14-month follow-up); therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mayor and City Council hereby declare that it shall be the policy of the City of Ann Arbor that the investigation and arrest of persons for planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, engaging in practices with, or possessing Entheogenic Plants or plant compounds which are on the Federal Schedule 1 list shall be the lowest law enforcement priority for the City of Ann Arbor; and city funds or resources shall not be used in any investigation, detention, arrest, or prosecution arising out of alleged violations of state and federal law regarding the use of Entheogenic Plants; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution does not authorize or enable any of the following activities: commercial sales or manufacturing of these plants and fungi, possessing or distributing these materials in schools, driving under the influence of these materials, or public disturbance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Mayor and City Council call upon the Washtenaw County District Attorney to cease prosecution of persons involved in the use of Entheogenic Plants or plant-based compounds designated by the federal Controlled Substance Act; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That if any provision of this resolution is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to any statute, regulation, or judicial decision, so that its applicability to any agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this resolution and its applicability to any other agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected.

1) Entheogens for Personal and Spiritual Growth

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2) Entheogens and Psychological Wellness

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4) Entheogens and Substance Abuse

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9) Entheogens and Cluster Headaches

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