



CITY OF TUCSON
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DATE: July 25, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members
City Manager, City Clerk

FROM: Vice Mayor Steve Kozachik

Council Member Regina Romero
Council Member Richard Fimbres

SUBJECT: Discussion on Spice and Related Products

We request the following item be agendaized at the *September 7th Study Session*:

Please set aside 30 minutes on the September 7th study session, for a discussion of what tools the city can put into place to control Spice and related products. Included in the discussion will be the potential ban on the sale, distribution, or possession with the intent to sell any of these products in the city of Tucson. We will also want staff, including the Tucson Police Department to be prepared to suggest the implementation of a public education summit hosted by members of the medical community and law enforcement, as well as a city sponsored public information campaign on the effects of using these substances.

Synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic phenethylamines are currently sold legally. They're commonly known as "synthetic marijuana," and sold as products such as K-2, Spice, Joker, herbal incense, and others. Synthetic cathinones are also sold legally often as "bath salts," or "jewelry cleaner." Both are being used at an alarming rate throughout the community, often by youth and low income residents. They are comprised of man-made chemicals intended to mimic the effects of marijuana and amphetamines. "Spice" and related products are addictive, and harmful. The effects are unpredictable because of the variation in the specific chemicals used in their production.

The "Spice" industry has been allowed to continue selling its products legally by simply changing a single chemical element out of the many that comprise a given product. Lives are being forever changed, and in some cases lost as a result of unscrupulous manufacturers. We owe it to our residents to implement the most, wide ranging and effective tools to stop the sale of these products, and to alert the community as to their effects.

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