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To:	Curls, Darrell; nathan.willet@kcmo.org; MayorQ; Public Testimony; Clerk; Bough, Andrea; chrispin.rea@kcmo.org; Rogers, Wes
Subject:	Support of Ordinance 251028
Date:	Monday, December 15, 2025 4:14:46 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

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Dear Members of the Kansas City Council,

Hello! I am writing to express my strong support for Ordinance 251028 and to urge the Council to maintain its comprehensive scope. To effectively protect our community, this ordinance must include all potentially harmful substances—such as kratom, intoxicating cannabinoids, and novel psychoactives. Anything less leaves dangerous gaps in public safety. Please ensure the Council upholds strong, complete protections for Kansas City residents and visitors.

Supporting Information:

- Medical Perspective: A local medical director stated, *"While medical providers are becoming more aware of the increasing use of these substances, they remain difficult to track due to the sheer number of products available. These substances can have significant health effects, especially for individuals with existing medical conditions or those taking other medications that may interact with 7-OH, creating serious health risks."*
- Community Impact: A coalition member shared, *"My best friend's brother committed suicide after becoming addicted to kratom. The medical examiner said she is tired of seeing deaths caused by this 'legal' drug. In less than a month, he was so addicted that he visited smoke shops every other day, quit his job, isolated himself, became paranoid, and ultimately took his life. Something must be done."*
- Warnings from Authorities: The FDA, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Midwest HIDTA, and the Kansas City Health Department have all issued warnings about these substances.
- Poison Control Data: From 2011–2017, there were 1,174 kratom-only exposures, with 1,020 resulting in adverse clinical effects. In the first seven months of 2025 alone, there were 1,690 reports. During that same period, 165 reports involved 7HMG exposure, with 67% requiring hospitalization. More than half of these cases required intensive treatment, including IV fluids, benzodiazepines, oxygen, naloxone, and intubation.

- Regulation Is Not Enough: States with Kratom Consumer Protection Acts (KCPA) still face widespread availability of high-potency extracts, gummies, and drinks. Enforcement remains weak. Utah lawmakers are now moving to repeal their KCPA and ban kratom entirely. What begins as “natural leaf” quickly becomes concentrated shots, powders, tablets, and derivatives far more potent than anything found in nature.

Public Health Imperative: A clear prohibition on the sale of kratom and its derivatives within city limits is the simplest and most effective solution. It sends a strong message that Kansas City will not allow unregulated opioids disguised as “supplements.” This approach protects families before they become another statistic and helps law enforcement and health officials by removing a confusing, constantly shifting category of products from retail shelves entirely. Let’s send a unified message: Kansas City is committed to being a safe place for all community members and visitors.

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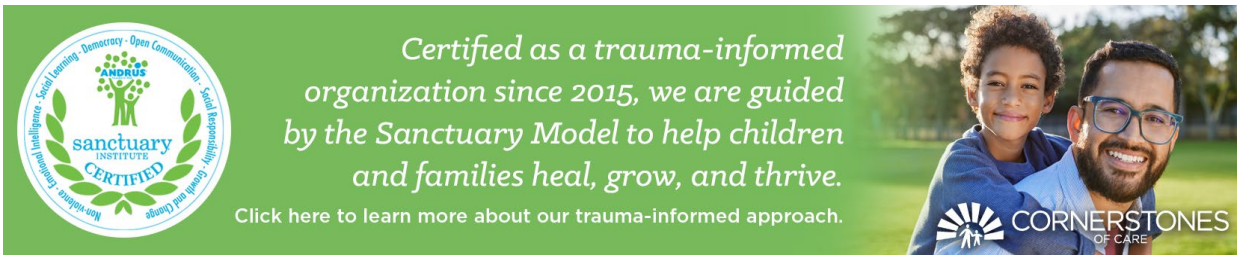

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