From: A B
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Ordinance 251028--Banning 7oh and kratom will increase overdose deaths
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Mayor Lucas says that he introduced this ordinance in response to a multi-drug overdose and singled out 7oh as the target and claims banning it will improve safety. This couldn't be more incorrect and misguided. There has ever been a single 7oh overdose death *ever*; not just in Kansas City or Missouri but in the entire country. 7oh is a partial option agonist that doesn't work on the receptors that are responsible for respiratory depression, unlike traditional opiates. This makes it much safer as it's impossible to overdose and makes it a very interesting substance to explore as a potential new prescription pain medication. Alcohol, fentanyl, these are the substances in overdose victims systems that are causing death; it's not kratom. And yet there's no ordinance banning alcohol, which has been proven to kill.

I do volunteer work with the homeless and drug addicts and heard about 7oh from a corner heroin and fentanyl addict. 7oh got him and many other of my street kids off drugs like fentanyl; it has literally saved their lives. Fentanyl addiction will eventually kill them but as long as they have 7oh as an option to take, they're staying off if it. If you ban 7oh, not only will these kids go back to shooting heroin, but also you will create a black market for 7oh. Anyone who's the mayor of Kansas City should be familiar with how alcohol prohibition went and how unsuccessful it was and how many more problems it created. Banning 7oh would be even worse then that. Instead of people being able to safely buy tablets that have been lab tested, they'll have to go to the black market for untested drugs that will often be tainted with fentanyl. People will overdose and die taking these illicit products when they could have bought them safely and legally.

Fentanyl and heroin overdose deaths have gone down 35% since 7oh was introduced to the market because addicts who were shooting up switched to safely taking tablets installed. 7oh saves lives; it doesn't end them. In addition to it not causing respiratory depression, 7oh has what's called a "ceiling effect" where after taking a certain amount of it, it doesn't do anything more. You won't get more effects; this also prevents overdose. When someone dies and has 20 different drugs in their system, blaming the one that's incapable of killing them and singling it out for banning is the worst possible thing you can do for public safety. You are going to kill people if you ban it. Are you willing to go look the parents of my street kids in the eyes at their funerals and explain why you took away the one thing keeping them alive? When people relapse on alcohol which you're ignoring as one of the drugs that led to death or on heroin, you will personally be responsible. Every DUI, every husband that goes home and beats his wife in a drunken fury, every junkie found dead with a needle in their arm because they either relapsed on fentanyl or took contaminated product due to your ban will be your fault. Please don't create a problem where there isn't one. Regulate it, yes, make it available to only those 21+, treat it like alcohol, but don't remove it from the market completely. The people pushing for bans are alcohol companies and regular kratom organizations mad that use of 7oh is cutting into their profits; it's not people who truly care about the safety of users.

You'll also be feeding into gang and cartel violence. Now, you could add a tax to 7oh and

generate revenue for the city, maybe use it to find addiction recovery programs. If you ban it, you'll be giving that money to heroin and fentanyl dealers. Those dealers either are either violent criminals themselves or working for violent criminals; increasing their business is a terrible idea. Please, I don't want to get a call from one of my street kid's dads telling me his son is dead because you took away his lifeline and he either went back to the needle or bought a contaminated product on the black market. Please don't create a problem where there isn't one and kill people just so alcohol and regular kratom companies can make a few more bucks. Do the research in journal articles yourselves instead of listening to these greedy companies; 7oh is a very very promising drug as a much safer alternative to traditional opiates. It saves lives; it doesn't end them.

Amy Boersma