



City Council Referral Request

Tracking Number 2024-54 Referral Date 6/18/2024 Requester Clark Gilman
(Provided by Susan)

- Referral To
- Study Session
 - Staff
 - General Government Committee
 - Land Use & Environment Committee
 - Work Session
 - Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety
 - Finance Committee
 - Advisory Committee Choose from Dropdown*

Problem Statement

It is time for the city of Olympia to join cities across the nation and the state of Oregon in decriminalizing entheogenic substances, including psilocybin and other fungal and plant-based medicines, which are shown to assist in the treatment of post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depression.

More than 30,000 former service members have taken their own lives since September 11. That is four times the number who died during active duty. These life saving treatments are seen as valuable tools to help prevent soldier and veteran suicides and all of those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder to regain optimal mental health.

We can't overlook a treatment modality to address the impacts of generational trauma on community members who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color and acknowledge the toll that post traumatic stress, depression and anxiety exact across our society.

Esteemed medical journals including the New England Journal of Medicine and Nature Medicine have published studies highlighting the potential of these natural substances for treating depression and PTSD. The FDA, Veterans Administration, and multiple state governments are looking at research on these medicines.

Olympians understand that decriminalizing plants and mushrooms can help our community with healing, personal and spiritual development that is both ethical and effective. They also understand that law enforcement and public safety officers have many other pressing priorities in their community, and enforcement of possession of psychoactive substances has already not been a priority. We are hopeful and excited for Olympia to join in the chorus of voices with strong leadership taking a stand for our community.

Decriminalizing the use of psilocybin and other psychedelic medicines shown to assist in mental health does not undermine the seriousness of our commitment to address the opioid epidemic causing harm in our community.

Request

What is being requested to assist in addressing the issue described in the problem statement?

To pass a resolution that concludes with:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Olympia, Washington, that the Council declares that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of anyone engaging in entheogen-related activities, including but not limited to the cultivation of entheogens for use in religious, spiritual, healing, or personal growth practices, should be a City of Olympia low enforcement priority and declares no city funds or resources should be for investigation, prosecution, and arrest of individuals solely for entheogenic plants and fungi. The Council states its support for the full decriminalization of these activities at the state and federal level.

Relationship to City Business or Proposed City Business/Services

Describe how this will enhance what is already offered and/or what it will provide that is not currently available. Why is this the City's issue to address? How will this create a more adaptive and resilient organization? How will this enhance the City's work to further equity, climate, and social justice?

Decriminalizing additional treatment modalities for improving the mental health of community members will benefit those individuals, as well as their neighbors, families, and coworkers.

Working to remove the stigma from mental health treatment, and psychedelics as a treatment modality will create more options for people.

Decriminalizing the use of these substances by community members to address generational trauma furthers our equity and belonging goals.

Connection to Comprehensive Plan

Choose all that apply.

Community, Safety and Health

Inclusive, respectful, civic participation; a safe & prepared community; health and wellness; adequate food and shelter; a quality education

Downtown

Vibrant, attractive urban destination; a safe and welcoming downtown for all; a mix of urban housing options; a variety of businesses; connections to our cultural & historic fabric; engaging arts & entertainment experience

Economy

Abundant local products and services; a thriving arts and entertainment industry; sustainable quality infrastructure; a stable thriving economy

Environment

Clean water & air; a daily connection to nature; preserved quality natural areas; a toxin-free community; a waste free culture

Neighborhoods

Distinctive places & gathering spaces; nearby goods & services; neighborhoods that are engaged in community decision making; safe and welcoming places to live

Options

Describe proposed options for moving the idea or issue forward for the meeting body to consider.

Review by Olympia Police Department and our city prosecutor.

We would like the Chief of Police to report to the council on the current enforcement of nature-based psychedelics.

Timing

Is this issue time sensitive, are there other timing factors to consider?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Supporting Documentation (Work Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Parks Plan, etc)

Are there documents that support your request or that should be considered?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Councilmember Signatures

Two Councilmembers must support the request including the Chair of the Committee of referral. (Cannot be a committee quorum unless discussed at an open public meeting of the committee.)

Clark

Sponsoring Councilmember

1. Dani Madrone
Councilmember

2. Robert Vanderpool
Councilmember

Staff Supplement

Staff will review the request to generate administrative impacts to be considered as part of proposal (staff to initial after their review):

Budget Impacts: Click or tap here to enter text.

Legal Review *(to include regulatory authority)*: Click or tap here to enter text.

Policy implications: Click or tap here to enter text.

Implementation Considerations: Click or tap here to enter text.

Staff Liaison: Click or tap here to enter text.
