

RESOLUTION NO. M-2549

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON DECLARING THAT THE INVESTIGATION, ARREST, AND PROSECUTION OF ANYONE ENGAGING IN ENTHEOGEN-RELATED ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE AMONG THE CITY OF OLYMPIA'S LOWEST LAW ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES AND STATING THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR FULL DECRIMINALIZATION OF THESE ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, entheogen is a term that encompasses any living, fresh, dried, or processed plant or fungal material, including teas or powders, that may contain currently scheduled or analog psychoactive indolamines, tryptamines, or phenethylamines, including, but not limited to, psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca tea, mescaline, and iboga; and

WHEREAS, depression, severe anxiety, problematic substance use, post-traumatic stress, end-of-life anxiety, grief, isolation, intergenerational trauma, and other physical and mental conditions are plaguing many communities, and scientific and clinical studies show the benefits of entheogens in treating these conditions; and

WHEREAS, communities face unprecedented mental health crisis, unprecedented suicide rates, especially among veterans and marginalized groups, and a deepening opioid addiction crisis. Olympia can contribute to removing stigmas through public education and supporting community mental health efforts; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sanctioned clinical trials show positive results that demonstrate the safety and efficacy of psilocybin assisted therapy; and

WHEREAS, the FDA designated psilocybin assisted therapy as a breakthrough therapy for treatment-resistant depression in 2018 and major depressive disorder in 2019; and

WHEREAS, human cultures around the world recognize entheogens as sacred and have used them as part of their cultural, spiritual, and religious practices for generations; and

WHEREAS, a variety of jurisdictions in the United States, including Seattle, Port Townsend, and Jefferson County, have supported decriminalization of entheogens, and Colorado, Oregon, and Washington D.C. have decriminalized some or all entheogens through successful ballot initiatives; and


WHEREAS, decriminalization of entheogens does not undermine the seriousness of the opioid epidemic and impact of harmful substances on the lives of individuals, families, and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. 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 no City funds or resources should be used for investigation, prosecution, or arrest of individuals possessing or using entheogenic plants or fungi.

2. This Resolution does not:
- a. Permit driving under the influence of entheogenic plants or fungi;
 - b. Permit the possession or distribution of entheogens in schools;
 - c. Authorize or enable commercial manufacturing or sales of entheogenic plants or fungi;
 - d. Permit conduct that puts public safety at risk or causes a public nuisance that violates the law;
or
 - e. Prohibit or discourage the investigation, arrest, or prosecution of such crimes.
3. The Council states its support for continued research for alternative treatment modalities and our support for structured medical models. The Council further states its support for the full decriminalization of entheogen-related activities at the state and federal level.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 13th day of August 2024.


MAYOR

ATTEST:

Sean Keier
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber
CITY ATTORNEY