

Memorandum

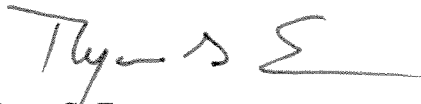


DATE: July 30, 2010

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Synthetic Cannabinoids and Salvia Divinorum**

Attached is briefing material on the "Synthetic Cannabinoids and Salvia Divinorum" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, August 2, 2010.



Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
Tom Perkins, City Attorney
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
C. Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council

Synthetic Cannabinoids and Salvia Divinorum

**Dallas City Attorney's Office
and the
Dallas Police Department**

August 2, 2010





ISSUES

- ❑ **What are synthetic cannabinoids?**
- ❑ **What is salvia divinorum?**
- ❑ **What are the effects of these products?**
- ❑ **Are these products available in Dallas?**
- ❑ **How are other governmental entities addressing these products?**
- ❑ **What can the City of Dallas do?**



Synthetic cannabinoids

- Since 2006, K2 products have been sold as incense or potpourri in smoke shops and other retailers.
- It is a mixture of herbal and spice plant products that have been sprayed with a synthetic compound similar to THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

Common products





What is salvia divinorum?

- ❑ Genus name- Salvia
- ❑ It is a psychoactive plant that is native to Mexico.
- ❑ Its active psychoactive component is salvinorin A.
- ❑ Sold as “Sally D” or “Magic Mint”

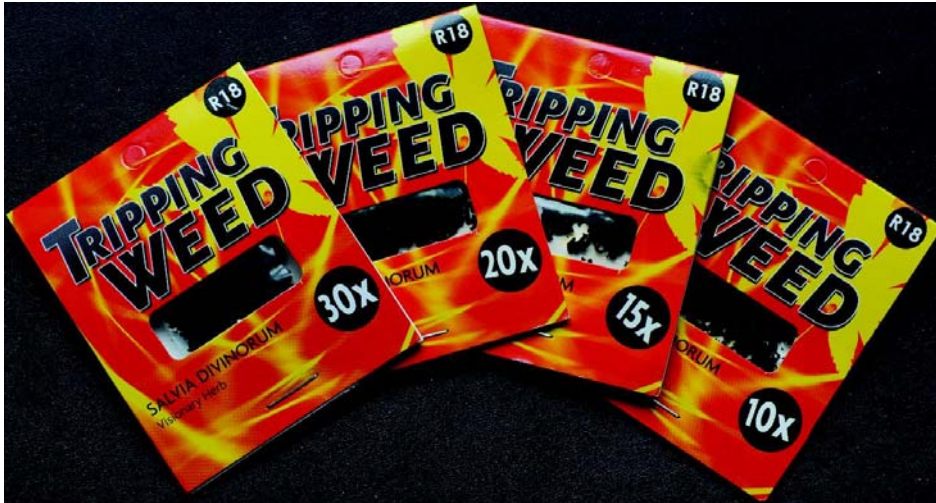
Salvia divinorum plants



Salvia products

Salvia divinorum

Lions-tail with
salvia divinorum



Drug Paraphernalia



What are the effects of synthetic cannabinoids?

5.18.10 U.S. Dept. of Justice Drug Alert Watch


- ❑ Law enforcement agencies report increased use of synthetic cannabinoid products
- ❑ Possibly used to avoid a positive drug test for marijuana and the resulting consequences
- ❑ When smoked, products produce the hallucinogenic effects of marijuana
- ❑ Users report effects last between 30 minutes-2 hours

What are the effects of synthetic cannabinoids?

Drug Alert Watch cont.

Reported adverse side effects include:

- Panic attacks
- Agitation
- Tachycardia (accelerated heart rate)
- Elevated blood pressure
- Anxiety



What are the effects of synthetic cannabinoids?

Reported adverse side effects cont.

- Pallor
- Numbness and tingling
- Vomiting (which can be severe and may require sedation)
- hallucinations (which can be intense)
- In some cases, tremors and seizures

What are the effects of synthetic cannabinoids?

The Texas Poison Center Network

Statewide:

- **119 calls**
- **105 exposures to synthetic cannabinoids**
- **Including 5 users having major medical issues**

Dallas County

- **6 calls**
- **mostly moderate medical issues**

(Jan. 1 – July 14)

Are products containing synthetic cannabinoids and salvia divinorum available in Dallas?

Yes.

- ❑ These products are available for purchase in head shops, gas stations, and other locations in the city.
- ❑ It is also available for purchase on the Internet and in magazines.

How are other governmental entities dealing with these products?

- Presently, these products are not illegal under federal law.
- These drugs are not approved by the FDA.
- The DEA lists *Salvia Divinorum*, Salvinorin A, and the synthetic cannabinoids found in Spice as drugs and chemicals of concern.

States that ban or restrict synthetic cannabinoids and/or salvia divinorum

- ❑ **Alabama**
- ❑ **Georgia**
- ❑ **Kansas**
- ❑ **Kentucky**
- ❑ **Louisiana**
- ❑ **Missouri**
- ❑ **Tennessee**
- ❑ **Arkansas (emergency order from Health Board)**

- ❑ **while Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York are considering bans.**

(as of 7.10.10)

State of Texas



Sen. Florence Shapiro, of Plano, has discussed the potential dangers of K2. She is working to draft legislation regulating these products on a state level.



Sen. Florence Shapiro

- Sen. Shapiro realizes that the state legislature will not consider legislation concerning K2 until 2011.
- She supports Texas cities in enacting ordinances regulating K2 during this interim period.



Texas cities that ban or restrict synthetic cannabinoids and/or salvia divinorum

- ❑ **Mansfield**
- ❑ **Allen**
- ❑ **McKinney**
- ❑ **Jasper**
- ❑ **Port Arthur**
- ❑ **Sulphur Springs**



What can the City of Dallas do?

Enact an ordinance to:

- **ban the use of these products in the city**
- **ban the possession, sale, or transfer of these products in the city**
- **prohibit smoking paraphernalia used with these products**
- **assess a fine not to exceed \$2000 for the use, possession, sale, or transfer of these products**

Questions

