

Communication from Public

Name: Richard

Date Submitted: 02/05/2026 11:42 AM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Please keep kratom legal for 18+ year olds. The problem is with all products with added 7oh & other synthetic ingredients. They should be banned. Thanks for giving me this opportunity to share my opinion.

Communication from Public

Name: Venus Usher

Date Submitted: 02/05/2026 03:27 PM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Venus Usher. I am submitting this public comment in opposition to Council File 25-1357. Plain leaf kratom allowed me to regain my life after 17 years of chronic pain and illnesses caused by FDA-approved medications. For years, I was largely confined to bed and disconnected from my family and friends. Treatments that were supposed to help, including Suboxone, caused additional harm, including severe dental damage. Plain leaf kratom gave me stability. It helped me manage pain safely and allowed me to participate in life again. I am able to function, remain independent, and avoid far more dangerous alternatives because of access to plain leaf kratom. Policies should focus on responsible adult use, accurate information, and safety. Broad bans do the opposite. They remove access to a plant that has helped people like me live again and they create unnecessary harm for patients and consumers who are acting responsibly. I also want to be clear that plain leaf kratom is not the same as synthetic products. That distinction matters and should matter in policy decisions. Plain leaf kratom and synthetic products should be clearly differentiated. Synthetics should never be sold or labeled as plain leaf, and regulations should enforce that separation rather than punishing responsible plain leaf or synthetic consumers. For these reasons, I urge you to oppose Council File 25-1357. Thank you for your time and for allowing my comment to be entered into the public record. Respectfully,
Venus Usher

Communication from Public

Name: Lily

Date Submitted: 02/06/2026 09:07 AM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not align the City with CDPH or County DPH's current "one-size-fits-all" direction. It has failed to distinguish natural kratom leaf from synthetic/concentrated 7-hydroxymitragynine by risk profile, and it has not been enforced with the clear distinction FDA Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary has emphasized: the concern is concentrated 7-OH, not trace 7-OH naturally present in leaf. ? As small business owners, we are calling for responsible regulation—not a blanket ban on everything. We support state legislation such as AB 1088 that age-gates sales (21+) and caps 7-OH content to prevent synthetic opioid-like products from driving overdoses, while allowing a regulated, lower-risk leaf marketplace. ? Summary: Support regulating kratom leaf products; support banning concentrated 7-OH consistent with FDA's actions and referral to DEA; oppose blanket bans that treat leaf and synthetic concentrates as the same.

Communication from Public

Name: Dan

Date Submitted: 02/06/2026 09:11 AM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: I'm asking you not to echo CDPH or County DPH's current "one-size-fits-all" posture here. They've treated kratom leaf and concentrated/synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) as interchangeable—and that mistake matters. FDA Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary drew the line plainly: 7-OH exists in trace amounts in the plant, but FDA's concern is the concentrated 7-OH products—"an important distinction." ? As small business owners, we're not asking for no rules. We're asking for smart rules: • Regulate natural kratom leaf products (age-gated, labeled, accountable), and • Ban concentrated 7-OH products in line with FDA's actions and DEA referral. ? That's why we support state legislation like AB 1088, which sets an age minimum (21+) and includes a limit on 7-OH content—instead of swinging a hammer at everything and calling it "public health." ? Bottom line: Regulate leaf. Prohibit concentrated 7-OH. Don't endorse a blanket approach that ignores the risk difference.

Communication from Public

Name: Emily Horn

Date Submitted: 02/06/2026 09:13 AM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Support regulation of kratom leaf products; support banning concentrated 7-OH consistent with FDA's lead; oppose blanket "ban everything" approaches that collapse two very different risk categories into one. FDA has already moved in this direction by recommending controlled-substance scheduling action targeting certain 7-OH products and elevating the risk profile of concentrated 7-OH separate from the leaf plant.

Communication from Public

Name: Christopher Deaney
Date Submitted: 02/04/2026 09:56 AM
Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Statement Regarding Natural Kratom, Public Safety, and Evidence-Based Regulation My name is Christopher Deaney. I am one of the millions of Americans whose lives have been meaningfully improved by natural kratom. When I was eight years old, I was struck by a car. That moment permanently altered my life. The injuries followed me into adulthood, and for fifteen years, I followed the only treatment path presented to me: long-term prescription opioids. Those medications allowed me to function, but they did not allow me to live. I lived in constant fog, disconnected from clarity, motivation, and full participation in daily life. By 2015, I was physically and mentally exhausted and actively searching for a safer, more sustainable alternative. That year, I discovered natural kratom. I prepared four grams of plain leaf as a traditional tea. Within approximately twenty minutes, I experienced improved clarity, stability, and functional capacity. There was no euphoria, no impairment, and no loss of control, only a measurable return of normal daily function. I still live with chronic pain. That reality has not disappeared. What changed is how I live with it. A simple cup of kratom tea allows me to manage my day without being sedated or mentally dulled. It supports function rather than fog. It gives me balance, not escape. My story is not unique. Millions of Americans share this same experience. Different backgrounds. Different struggles. The same result. Veterans, parents, working adults, and caregivers use natural kratom tea every day to remain functional, present, and engaged in their lives. For many of us, a leaf gave us our lives back. Importantly, my experience aligns with emerging clinical research on natural kratom leaf. A recent controlled human trial, Safety and Tolerability of Single and Multiple Daily Oral Doses of Dried Kratom Leaf Powder, found natural kratom leaf to be well-tolerated when consumed as plain leaf powder in adults. Study link: https://journals.lww.com/drug-monitoring/fulltext/9900/safety_and_tolerability_of_single_and_multiple.435.aspx That experience compelled me to study kratom more deeply. Over the past decade, I have focused on its chemistry, its long-standing traditional use in Southeast Asia, and the growing body of peer-reviewed research. I have also worked directly with Indonesian farming communities that have responsibly cultivated and used this plant for generations. I remain available to discuss kratom's real-world use, chemistry, and regulatory considerations with lawmakers, regulators, and researchers. Recognition of Kratom as a Traditional Herbal Medicine It is important for policymakers to understand that kratom is increasingly recognized within the established herbal products community. In 2024, the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) published a new entry for kratom in its Botanical Safety Handbook, recognizing kratom as a traditional botanical with a documented history of use. AHPA announcement: https://www.ahpa.org/blog_home.asp?Display=279 The Botanical Safety Handbook is a respected reference used across the herbal and dietary supplement industry to assess traditional use, safety context, and appropriate regulatory treatment of botanicals. Kratom's inclusion reflects acknowledgment by a major national trade organization that kratom belongs within the framework of traditional herbal products, not as a novel or synthetic substance. Critical Distinction: Natural Kratom vs. Synthetic Derivatives It is essential to clearly distinguish natural kratom leaf from synthetic or semi-synthetic kratom derivatives. Natural, plain-leaf kratom contains dozens of naturally occurring alkaloids in a balanced botanical matrix. When consumed as tea or powder, the human body regulates its metabolism. Only a small fraction of Mitragynine is converted to 7-hydroxymitragynine via normal metabolic pathways, and this conversion is subject to a natural physiological ceiling. Synthetic compounds—including lab-manufactured 7-hydroxymitragynine and related substances such as MGM-15, MGM-16, and SR-17018—bypass these natural safeguards. They introduce unregulated pharmacologic intensity, elevate dependency risk, and create safety concerns that do not exist with traditional plain leaf kratom. The American Herbal Products Association has directly addressed this issue in its formal guidance on synthesized kratom alkaloids, making clear that synthetic manipulation should not be conflated with traditional botanical kratom. AHPA guidance document: https://www.ahpa.org/Files/Document%20Library/AHPAGuidancePolicies/25_0303_AHPA_Guidance_policy_synthesized_kratom_alkaloids.pdf Public health risks associated with "kratom" in today's marketplace overwhelmingly stem from synthetic and adulterated products, not from responsibly produced, natural kratom leaf. A Responsible Federal Framework At the federal level, lawmakers have introduced the Federal Kratom Consumer Protection Act (S.3039), which establishes