



Fwd: Council File: 25-1357 KRATOM PRODUCTS LA SALE BAN

1 message

Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 7:23 AM

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From: 'Andre Hartoonian' via Clerk - CityClerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
Date: Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 12:20 AM
Subject: Council File: 25-1357 KRATOM PRODUCTS LA SALE BAN
To: CityClerk@lacity.org <CityClerk@lacity.org>

I WAS CONTACTED ON FEB 4TH WHILE PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSION FOR THIS WAS CLOSED FEB 2ND.

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU FORWARD THIS TO THE HEARING'S PUBLIC RESPONSE ADMINISTRATORS, PLEASE. THANK YOU.

COUNCIL FILE # 25-1357 - Los Angeles County Department of Public Health / Kratom Products / 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) / Sale Ban / AB 1088 (Bains)

Public Posting Comment:

" Good Morning, Dear fellow Angelenos.

Before I begin, I wish to conduct a public display of Kratom consumption in this our Land of the Free United States of America, to demonstrate its safety and how I could subsequently still conduct this hearing testimony, and I've used this natural plant for years now. *[Consumes 4 gelcaps approx. 2grams of dried powdered kratom plant]*

I want to share with you why Kratom consumer protection matters so much ...to everyone.

All of us, here in this room, have personally known someone who died from fentanyl-related overdose. Maybe in a few out of 10 cases it was someone you knew of, and tragically, in more than a few cases out of 10 - it was someone you knew for years if not a lifetime.

Have we, as a 21st century society not learned by now that which drugs are legal and illegal has never had anything to do with public health and has everything to do with politics and money?? Have we not learned by now how much the FDA and DEA and other 3 letter agencies and Big Pharma are in cahoots with each other and have conflicts of interest? That the War on Drugs was NEVER a quote unquote "war", because, by definition: wars end??

Fentanyl continues to kill Americans every day, how come Fentanyl isn't banned in the U.S.? Because it's ingrained in the medical system and has widespread use as a pain reliever and

anesthetic, that is cheaper to procure than the classical opium/morphine-derivatives.

It is essential to realize that almost all of the anti-Kratom public misconceptions are outdated and have been proven false. Kratom falls under the category of food/supplement/herbal alternatives, and people CANNOT die strictly from Kratom-only OD's like they can with heroin/fentanyl because Kratom doesn't contain classical opioids per se. In fact, the "opioid-LIKE" compounds in Kratom (namely "mitragynine" and "7-Hydroxy-Mitragynine") DO NOT affect the breathing centers of the brain to induce respiratory depression that opium/morphine-derivatives cause! Nearly 100% of the few and far between fatal cases (that involved kratom EXTRACTS instead of leaf) were an isolated Swedish case and were literally ALL ADULTERATED PRODUCTS! These few and far between incidents occurred because of "polydrug" mixed drug interaction, NOT from consumption of the natural Kratom plant alone.

Have we not learned yet what happens when we blanket ban making substances illegal? Obviously not only does it NOT magically disappear, but all that happens is now that substance begins reappearing in the black market, prices for it SURGE astronomically which goes into the pockets of drug dealers instead of tax paying shop owners, chances of product adulteration now becomes guaranteed, and drug cartels also grow as they now have a whole new product to push while the black market grows. And at the same time you've taken away the ONLY option that Angelenos would have had access to for all kinds of emergencies, to not have to be dopesick through vital responsibilities, being able to eat and sleep should anything go wrong, INSTEAD of your only option being to be cold turkey violently ill until who knows? Does this sound like a smart idea?

This is the ONLY such plant that exists which has these safe characteristics that we desperately need in this country whose medical system created the opioid epidemic and left people out on their to their own devices to deal with their addictions, and now on top of everything we are going to yet TAKE AWAY 1 of the only options left that is accessible to anyone regardless of what their financial or medical insurance status is? Once a person can transition off of street drugs onto kratom, weening off kratom is a much milder detox. We cannot continue to make the same mistakes, take more and more options and alternatives away from citizens who carry afflictions our very own Pharmaceutical system created? We need to think above the near-sighted notion to just blindly ban a substance because oh there's quote unquote "too many drugs out there already we don't need another drug" or some narrow-minded notion like that. Kratom is a natural plant that's always existed it's not new.

After the record breaking overdose death's of the early 2020s - you would think that we would've learned all the way back in the 1920's that Prohibition doesn't work... and now in the middle of national cannabis legalizing - if we simultaneously go backwards and ban and prohibit kratom (again - only to surely later see it resurface in the black market with gouged prices and god knows what kinds of adulteration) we will show that we still haven't learned either. We will make drug dealers even more rich, black market further grows in size (which is bad for the dollar!!), and worst of all... we will be leaving all of the addicts out to dry, and suddenly having THAT MANY people cold turkey withdrawing is going to be MUCH MUCH more dangerous to LA than Kratom EVER was! These quote unquote "addicts" - who could very well be our coworkers, our friends, even family.

PLEASE Angelenos, PLEASE Stop Seizures, Government Overreach, and Calling Safe Kratom "Illegal"!

Thank you for your time, "