

Resolution in Support of an Ordinance Decriminalizing Entheogens in the City of Seattle

WHEREAS: Punitive drug policies disproportionately impact people of color and low-income communities; and state and federal scheduling of Entheogens, and other substances associated with those communities, has served as a pretext for disrupting and criminalizing those communities, which has destroyed countless lives and torn families apart, this resolution is an effort to begin correcting the irreparable harm caused by the U.S. war on drugs.

WHEREAS: Depression, severe anxiety, problematic substance use, post-traumatic stress, end-of-life anxiety, grief, intergenerational trauma, and other physical and mental conditions are plaguing our communities, exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, and the use of Entheogens has been shown to benefit the well-being of individuals and communities in addressing these afflictions via scientific and clinical studies, and within continuing traditional and communal practices; and

WHEREAS: Several Entheogens have completed clinical trials sanctioned by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including Phase 1 and 2a clinical trials demonstrating the safety and efficacy of psilocybin assisted therapy, which the FDA has designated a breakthrough therapy for major depression and treatment-resistant depression; and

WHEREAS: Entheogens have been recognized as sacred to human cultures around the world for thousands of years, and continue to be revered and utilized to this day by venerable and sincere cultural and spiritual leaders and communities throughout the world, the United States, and the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS: Entheogens have been shown to lead to experiences that are reported as mystical and that can be demonstrably beneficial in catalyzing reported experiences of profound personal and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS: The United Nations considers Entheogens as suitable for exclusion from Schedule 1 control, at least when used for religious purposes, and the Entheogen related practices of certain groups are already explicitly protected in the U.S. under the doctrine of religious freedom; and

WHEREAS: A variety of jurisdictions in the United States, including Oakland, California; Santa Cruz, California; Denver, Colorado; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and the State of Oregon, have decriminalized Entheogens; residents of the District of Columbia recently voted to decriminalize them; and various Entheogens have been decriminalized in countries including Portugal, Jamaica, and the Netherlands; and

WHEREAS: Research conducted by national governments, including those of the Netherlands and Portugal, concluded that the availability of Entheogens poses little or no risk to individuals or public health, and in some cases reduces the consumption of more harmful substances; and

WHEREAS: A recent Johns Hopkins University medical study found that psilocybin occasioned mystical-type experiences considered to be among the five most meaningful experiences in a subject's life for over 75% of subjects, with continuing positive life-style changes reported after a 14-month follow-up; and

WHEREAS: Safe practice guidelines and principles have been developed by traditional and medically licensed practitioners to promote the safe and responsible use of Entheogens, and these guidelines and principles will be made available on the website of the Entheo Society of Washington; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: Entheogen related activities shall be the lowest law enforcement priority for the City of Seattle, and no department, agency, board, commission, officer, or employee of the city, including without limitation, Seattle Police Department personnel, shall expend any city funds, manpower, or other resources on the investigation, arrest, or prosecution of persons, non-profit entities, or community-based organizations for the cultivation, possession, transport, storage, sharing, exchange, or consumption of Entheogens, or for the facilitation of community healing ceremonies involving Entheogens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Chair will transmit the (Organizations) support of the creation of an Ordinance by the Seattle City Council that decriminalizes Entheogens in the City of Seattle

Definitions:

"Entheogen" means the full spectrum of plants, fungi, and other natural materials and/or their extracted compounds, limited to those containing the following types of compounds: indole amines, tryptamines, and phenethylamines; that can benefit psychological and physical wellness, support and enhance spiritual and community healing practices, and promote the inalienable human right to connect with nature.