



**Grand Rapids
Michigan**

Adopted
Sep 28, 2021 7:00 PM

**City Comm Agenda
91111**

Resolution declaring support for decriminalizing the Use and Possession of Entheogenic Plants and Fungi at the Local, State and Federal Level

Information

Department:	Executive Office	Sponsors:	
Category:	Agenda Action Request	Functions:	City Commission, Committee of the Whole

Attachments

[Item Description](#)

Content A

Attached is a draft resolution that is consistent with local, state and federal law and would affirm the desire of the City Commission to support efforts at the local, state and federal level to decriminalize the use and possession of Entheogenic Plants and Fungi.

Recently, the Decriminalize Nature Grand Rapids advocacy group and interested Grand Rapids residents have elevated the issue surrounding the use and possession of Entheogenic Plants and Fungi. At the request of some of the Commissioners, City staff have met with the group and discussed their issue and advocacy.

Currently, under state and federal law mushrooms containing psilocybin, ayahuasca and other entheogenic plants and fungi are considered Schedule I substances. Criminal penalties are generally based on the quantity of the substance and can be significant.

Additional information provided by the Decriminalize Nature Group includes but is not limited to the following:

- Entheogenic Plants and Fungi are defined herein as the full spectrum of plants, fungi, and natural materials deserving reverence and respect from the perspective of the individual and the collective that can benefit psychological and physical wellness, can inspire personal and spiritual well-being, and can reestablish humans' unalienable and direct relationship to nature; and
- Those seeking to improve their health and well-being through the use of Entheogenic Plants and Fungi ought to be able to explore these healing methods without risk of arrest and prosecution; and
- To ensure equitable access for all people, personal home cultivation and culturally relevant settings such as community-based ceremony are critical. Such access has been shown to be effective across cultures for healing and personal and spiritual growth for centuries.
- The municipalities of Oakland, CA; Santa Cruz, CA; Ann Arbor, MI; Somerville, MA; Cambridge, MA; Washington, DC; and the state of Oregon have decriminalized some entheogenic plants and fungi. Individuals in over 140 cities are looking into decriminalization efforts and Decriminalize

Nature campaigns are underway in 42 cities in the United States with decriminalization legislation proposed in several states.

It should be noted that all these points provided by the Decriminalize Nature Group have not been additionally researched nor independently verified by City Staff.

The attached resolution was prepared to address the issues presented by Decriminalize Nature Grand Rapids and interested residents of the City while remaining consistent with the law and City Charter.

Content C

WHEREAS, Decriminalize Nature Grand Rapids is an educational and advocacy campaign with a goal to improve the health of Grand Rapids residents, including healing from depression, end-of-life anxiety/suffering, and addiction while not endorsing nor encouraging illegal behavior; and

WHEREAS, Decriminalize Nature Grand Rapids and individual Grand Rapids residents have advocated for political action to decriminalize Entheogenic Plants and Fungi; and

WHEREAS, those seeking to improve their health and well-being through the use of Entheogenic Plants and Fungi should have the freedom to explore these healing methods without risk of arrest and prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of Oakland, CA; Santa Cruz, CA; Ann Arbor, MI; Somerville, MA; Cambridge, MA; Washington, DC; and the state of Oregon have taken efforts to decriminalize some entheogenic plants and fungi; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of laws regulating the possession and use of Entheogenic Plant and Fungi has not been a high priority for the City of Grand Rapids with very little public funds directed toward proactive investigation or prosecution of such cases; and

WHEREAS, this City Commission supports ongoing low prioritization for regulating the possession and use of Entheogenic Plant and Fungi in the City of Grand Rapids.

WHEREAS, this resolution does not authorize or enable any criminal activity that is illegal pursuant to state or federal law including but not limited to: commercial sales or manufacturing of Entheogenic plants and Fungi, possessing or distributing these materials in schools, driving under the influence of these materials, or public disturbance; and any significant violation of this section which may result in law enforcement involvement by the City of Grand Rapids; and

WHEREAS, decriminalization of minor non-violent offenses has been a recent key component to the City of Grand Rapids legislative priority agenda.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Mayor and City Commission hereby support local, state and federal legislative efforts to decriminalize Entheogenic Plants and Fungi and plant-based compounds that are listed on the Federal Controlled Substances Schedule.