



RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE INVESTIGATION AND ARREST OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WITH THE PERSONAL USE, GROWTH, AND POSSESSION OF ENTHEOGENIC PLANTS, INCLUDING THOSE SCHEDULED AT STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS, BE THE LOWEST PRIORITY FOR THE CITY OF YPSILANTI.

WHEREAS, Entheogenic Plants, defined herein as the full spectrum of plants, fungi, and 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 religious and spiritual practices, and can reestablish human's inalienable and direct relationship to nature; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse, addiction, recidivism, trauma, post-traumatic stress symptoms, chronic depression, severe anxiety, end-of-life anxiety, grief, cluster headache, and other debilitating conditions are present in our community; and

WHEREAS, the use of Entheogenic Plants, which can catalyze profound experiences of personal and spiritual growth, have been shown by scientific and clinical studies and traditional practices to be beneficial to the health and well-being of individuals and communities in addressing these conditions; and

WHEREAS, practices with Entheogenic Plants have long existed and have been considered to be sacred to human cultures and interrelationships with nature for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, individuals seeking to improve their health and well-being through the use of Entheogenic Plants fear arrest and prosecution due to current legal prohibitions; and

WHEREAS, the City Ypsilanti currently has many other priorities for the use of its funds, staff, and law enforcement resources; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations considers Entheogenic Plant material used for ritual purposes as excluded from Schedule 1 substances; and

WHEREAS, the Entheogenic Plant practices of certain groups are already explicitly protected in the U.S. under the principle of religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, Entheogenic plants such as Ibogaine have been shown to alleviate treatment resistant cases of opiate and methamphetamine addiction at higher rates than other treatment; and

WHEREAS, Entheogenic Plants or combinations of plants such as Ayahuasca contain Dimethyltryptamine (a naturally occurring compound in the human body) that can be beneficial in treating addiction, depression, and in catalyzing profound experiences of personal and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS, Entheogenic plants such as cacti that contain phenethylamine compounds (such as mescaline), can be beneficial in the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction and for individual spiritual growth, and have been utilized in sacred initiation and community healing by diverse religious and cultural traditions for millennia and continue to be used for healing and as religious sacraments in modern times; and

WHEREAS, The Washtenaw County District Attorney's office has issued a statement in support of the resolution to decriminalize Entheogenic plants and fungi adopted by the Ann Arbor City Council and Mayor on September 21, 2020 and accordingly adopted a policy foregoing prosecution of cases involving the cultivation, use, or possession of Entheogenic plants and fungi across Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Jeff Irwin has introduced SB 499, which would amend sections 7401, 7403, and 7404 of 1978 PA 368, which states that an individual would not be in violation of PA 368 through the manufacturing, creates, delivers, or possesses with intent to manufacture, create, deliver the entheogenic plat of fungus without receiving money; and

WHEREAS, psilocybin, naturally occurring in Entheogenic mushrooms, can alleviate end-of-life anxiety for hospice and terminal cancer patients, can reduce prison recidivism; can effectively treat substance abuse, depression, and cluster headaches (a Johns Hopkins University study on "healthy-normals," found that Entheogenic plants can occasion mystical-type experiences, which were considered one of the top five most meaningful experiences in a subject's life, and positive life style changes continued in a 14-month follow-up.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mayor and City Council hereby declare that it shall be the policy of the City of Ypsilanti that the investigation and arrest of persons for planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, engaging in practices with, or possessing Entheogenic Plants or plant compounds which are on the Federal Schedule 1 list shall be the lowest law enforcement priority for the City of Ypsilanti; and city funds or resources shall not be used in any investigation, detention, arrest, or prosecution arising out of alleged violations of state and federal law regarding the use of Entheogenic Plants.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution does not authorize or enable any of the following activities: commercial sales or manufacturing of these plants and fungi, possessing or distributing these materials in schools, driving under the influence of these materials, or public disturbance.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That if any provision of this resolution is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to any statute, regulation, or judicial decision, so that its applicability to any agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this resolution and its applicability to any other agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ypsilanti, supports the passage of SB 499 and direct the City Clerk, to forward this resolution of support to the Senate Committee of Regulatory Affairs and Governor Whitmer.

OFFERED BY: _____

SUPPORTED BY: _____

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE: