



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

POST OFFICE BOX 1409
KEY WEST, FL 33041-1409
WWW.KEYWESTCITY.COM

To: The City Commission for the City of Key West

From: Ron Ramsingh, Assistant City Attorney

Date: July 10, 2012

RE: New ordinance prohibiting the sale of synthetic bath salts and synthetic marijuana.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Action statement:

A proposed ordinance that will ban the sale of what are commonly referred to as “bath salts” and “synthetic marijuana” given its extreme effects on people and convenient availability on many gas stations and convenience stores.

Background: Recently, the synthetic drugs referred to as bath salts and synthetic marijuana have received a lot of attention in both the media and in the Florida State Legislature. The industry that manufactures these chemicals and their chemists are constantly evolving the chemical composition of the products to evade criminal prosecution given the large amount of time that it takes the legislature to act. These ordinances are modeled after ordinances that have been recently passed in Miami-Dade County and Deerfield Beach. The scientific data as well as the statistics have been well explained in the “Whereas” clauses of both proposed ordinances.

Options:

- To pass the proposed bans on the sale of bath salts and synthetic marijuana thereby protecting the visitors and citizenry from these dangerous, dynamic and unregulated substances.

- To defeat the proposed bans and wait for the state legislature to catch up to this dynamic illicit industry.

Reccomendation: To join the legions of cities who are passing like ordinances to stay ahead of the curve and protect its citizenry from these illicit and unregulated substances.