

BOARD of SUPERVISORS




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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 23, 2022

To: William Scott, Chief, Police Department
Paul Miyamoto, Sheriff, Sheriff's Department
Brooke Jenkins, District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney

From:  Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Subject: Supporting Entheogenic Plant Practices (File No. 220896)

On September 6, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 379-22, sponsored by Supervisor Dean Preston (File No. 220896, Supporting Entheogenic Plant Practices); enacted on September 16, 2022.

Please find the attached courtesy copy of the Resolution for your department's information and consideration, which is being sent as directed by the Resolution.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184.

- c: Members of the Board of Supervisors; Supervisors Dean Preston, Hillary Ronen
Tom Paulino, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's Office
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Susanna Conine-Nakano, Mayor's Office
Lisa Ortiz, Police Department
Lili Gamero, Police Department
Diana Oliva-Aroche, Police Department
Sgt. Stacy Youngblood, Police Commission
Johanna Saenz, Sheriff's Department
Katherine Johnson, Sheriff's Department
Nancy Crowley, Sheriff's Department
Rich Jue, Sheriff's Department
Christian Kropff, Sheriff's Department
Ana Gonzalez, Office of the District Attorney
Eugene Clendinen, Office of the District Attorney
Tara Anderson, Office of the District Attorney

1 [Supporting Entheogenic Plant Practices]

2
3 **Resolution supporting entheogenic plant practices, urging City law enforcement**
4 **agencies that the investigation and arrest of individuals involved with the adult use of**
5 **entheogenic plants on the Federal Schedule 1 List be amongst the lowest priority for**
6 **the City and County of San Francisco, and urging the State of California and the United**
7 **States Federal government to decriminalize entheogenic plant practices and their uses.**
8

9 WHEREAS, Entheogenic Plants, based on the term “entheogen”, originally conceived
10 by Ott, Ruck, and other colleagues from a working group of anthropologists and
11 ethnobotanists in 1979; and defined herein as the full spectrum of plants, fungi, and natural
12 materials that can inspire personal and spiritual well-being, can benefit psychological and
13 physical wellness, and can reestablish human’s inalienable and direct relationship to nature;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Substance abuse, addiction, recidivism, trauma, post-traumatic stress
16 symptoms, chronic depression, severe anxiety, end-of-life anxiety, grief, diabetes, cluster
17 headaches, and other conditions are plaguing our community and that the use of Entheogenic
18 Plants have been shown to be beneficial to the health and well-being of individuals and
19 communities in addressing these afflictions via scientific and clinical studies and within
20 continuing traditional practices, which can catalyze profound experiences of personal and
21 spiritual growth; and

22 WHEREAS, Practices with Entheogenic Plants have long existed and have been
23 considered to be sacred to human cultures and human interrelationships with nature for
24 thousands of years, and continue to be enhanced and improved to this day by religious and
25

1 spiritual leaders, practicing professionals, mentors, and healers throughout the world, many of
2 whom have been forced underground; and

3 WHEREAS, The state legislature has already started the conversation around the
4 decriminalization of personal possession of small amounts of seven psychedelic substances
5 for adults through California State Senate Bill No.(SB) 519, introduced by Senator Scott
6 Wiener in 2021, and currently pending before the California Legislature; and

7 WHEREAS, The introduction, and preliminary success of SB 519 moving through the
8 legislative process, signals a significant shift as state and local municipalities rethink their drug
9 laws; and

10 WHEREAS, SB 519 would also allow the sharing and cultivation of specified
11 psychedelics to also be allowable under the bill's terms; and

12 WHEREAS, SB 519 would decriminalize possession of up to two grams of N, N-
13 dimethyltryptamine (DMT); 15 grams of ibogaine; 0.01 grams of Lysergic acid diethylamide
14 (LSD); 2 grams of psilocybin; 2 grams of psilocin; and 4 grams of 3,4-methylenedioxy-
15 methamphetamine (MDMA) and there would be no penalties or fines for possession below
16 those the limits for people over 21; and

17 WHEREAS, SB 519 would also decriminalize facilitated or supported use, and allow for
18 someone to be present in a supportive role while an individual or group uses permitted
19 psychedelics, as long as everyone is still over 21; and

20 WHEREAS, At the time of introduction of this Resolution, SB 519 is scheduled to be
21 heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee of the California State Legislature on August
22 3, 2022; and

23 WHEREAS, There is a lack of clarity as to whether practices with Entheogenic Plants,
24 as described above, can be subject to law enforcement and therefore those seeking to
25

1 improve their health and well-being through the use of Entheogenic Plants use them in fear of
2 arrest and prosecution; and

3 WHEREAS, The Entheogenic Plant practices of certain groups are already explicitly
4 protected in the U.S. under the doctrine of religious freedom -- for example the use of
5 ayahuasca by two churches, a Santo Daime congregation and the União do Vegetal; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Entheogenic plants containing ibogaine, for example, have been shown to
9 alleviate treatment-resistant cases of opiate and methamphetamine addiction at significantly
10 higher rates than all other treatments for addiction. In addition, ibogaine is reported to be
11 beneficial for addiction therapy related to specific work-related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
12 (PTSD) encountered by first responders such as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT),
13 police, and firefighters, as well as military veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, Entheogenic Plants or combinations of plants such as Ayahuasca that
15 contain forms of DMT, a naturally occurring compound in the human body that is listed as a
16 Schedule 1 substance, can lead to experiences that are reported as mystical or experientially
17 similar to near death experiences and that can be demonstrably beneficial in treating
18 addiction, depression, PTSD, and in catalyzing profound experiences of personal and spiritual
19 growth; and

20 WHEREAS, Entheogenic cacti that contain phenethylamine compounds such as
21 mescaline can be beneficial in healing drug and alcohol addiction and for individual spiritual
22 growth, and have been utilized in sacred initiation and community healing by diverse religious
23 and cultural traditions for millennia and continuing use as religious sacraments in modern
24 times; and

1 WHEREAS, Psilocybin, naturally occurring in Entheogenic mushrooms, can alleviate
2 end-of-life anxiety for hospice and terminal cancer patients, can reduce prison recidivism, and
3 can effectively treat depression, cluster headaches, and trauma; and

4 WHEREAS, A Johns Hopkins University study on “healthy-normals” found that
5 psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experiences, which were considered one of the top five
6 most meaningful experiences in a subject’s life for over 75% of their subjects within the first
7 year after the study, and also found continuing positive life-style changes after a 14-month
8 follow-up; and

9 WHEREAS, In June 2019, the city of Oakland, California became the first in the US to
10 decriminalize plant-based entheogens including psilocybin, iboga, ayahuasca and mescaline
11 cacti; and

12 WHEREAS, In November 2020, California, Oregon, became the first U.S. state to
13 decriminalize possession of small amounts of all illicit drugs; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor of the City and County of
15 San Francisco to instruct the City’s state and federal lobbyists to work in support of
16 decriminalizing all Entheogenic Plants and plant-based compounds that are listed on the
17 Federal Controlled Substances Schedule 1; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges state and federal officials
19 to work in collaboration to support the decriminalization of all Entheogenic Plants and plant-
20 based compounds that are listed on the Federal Controlled Substances Schedule 1; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges law enforcement
22 agencies that the investigation and arrest of individuals involved with the adult use of
23 Entheogenic Plants on the Federal Schedule 1 List be amongst the lowest priority for the City;
24 and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges law enforcement
2 agencies that the investigation and arrest of adult persons for planting, cultivating, purchasing,
3 transporting, distributing, engaging in practices with, and/or possessing Entheogenic Plants or
4 plant compounds on the Federal Schedule 1 list shall be amongst the lowest law enforcement
5 priority for the City; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges that City resources not be
7 used for any investigation, detention, arrest, or prosecution arising out of alleged violations of
8 state and federal law regarding the use of Entheogenic Plants listed on the Federally
9 Controlled Substances Schedule 1 list; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall transmit a copy of this
11 Resolution to the Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office,
12 Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblymembers Matt Haney and Phil Ting, Speaker of the House
13 Nancy Pelosi, United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and Governor Gavin
14 Newsom.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 220896

Date Passed: September 06, 2022

Resolution supporting entheogenic plant practices, urging City law enforcement agencies that the investigation and arrest of individuals involved with the adult use of entheogenic plants on the Federal Schedule 1 List be amongst the lowest priority for the City and County of San Francisco, and urging the State of California and the United States Federal government to decriminalize entheogenic plant practices and their uses.

September 06, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 220896

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/6/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo]
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

09/16/2022

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

[Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo]
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

09/16/2022

Date