

**Resolution Supporting Entheogenic Plant Practices, Urging San Francisco 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.**

WHEREAS, Entheogenic Plants, based on the term “entheogen”, originally conceived by Ott, Ruck, and other colleagues from a working group of anthropologists and ethnobotanists in 1979; and defined herein as the full spectrum of plants, fungi, and natural materials that can inspire personal and spiritual well-being, can benefit psychological and physical wellness, 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, diabetes, cluster headaches, and other conditions are plaguing our community and that the use of Entheogenic Plants have been shown to be beneficial to the health and well-being of individuals and communities in addressing these afflictions via scientific and clinical studies and within continuing traditional practices, which can catalyze profound experiences of personal and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS, Practices with Entheogenic Plants have long existed and have been considered to be sacred to human cultures and human interrelationships with nature for thousands of years, and continue to be enhanced and improved to this day by religious and spiritual leaders, practicing professionals, mentors, and healers throughout the world, many of whom have been forced underground; and

WHEREAS, The state legislature has already started the conversation around the decriminalization of personal possession of small amounts of seven psychedelic substances for adults through Senate Bill 519, introduced by Senator Scott Wiener in 2021, and currently pending before the California Legislature; and

WHEREAS, [The introduction, and preliminary success of SB 519 moving through the legislative process](#), signals a significant shift as state and local municipalities rethink their drug laws; and

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

WHEREAS, SB 519 would decriminalize possession of up to 2 grams of DMT; 15 grams of ibogaine; 0.01 grams of LSD; 2 grams of psilocybin; 2 grams of psilocin; and 4 grams of MDMA and there would be no penalties or fines for possession below those the limits for people over 21; and

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

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

WHEREAS, There is a lack of clarity as to whether Practices with Entheogenic Plants, as described above, can be subject to law enforcement and therefore those seeking to improve their health and well-being through the use of Entheogenic Plants use them in fear of arrest and prosecution; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Entheogenic plants containing ibogaine, for example, have been shown to alleviate treatment-resistant cases of opiate and methamphetamine addiction at significantly higher rates than all other treatments for addiction. In addition, ibogaine is reported to be beneficial for addiction therapy related to specific work-related PTSD encountered by first responders such as EMT, police, and firefighters, as well as military veterans; and

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

WHEREAS, Entheogenic cacti that contain phenethylamine compounds such as mescaline can be beneficial in healing 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 continuing use as religious sacraments in modern times; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges San Francisco 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, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges San Francisco law enforcement agencies that the investigation and arrest of adult persons

for planting, cultivating, purchasing, transporting, distributing, engaging in practices with, and/or possessing Entheogenic Plants or plant compounds on the Federal Schedule 1 list shall be amongst the lowest law enforcement priority for the City of San Francisco; and, be it

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office (DA), Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Members Matt Haney and Phil Ting, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, US Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and Governor Gavin Newsom.