

From: [tony Rodini](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: REGULATION OF KRATOM SALES AND POSSESSION.
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 5:00:30 PM



Hello, my name is Anthony Rodini and I am a California resident.

I've been using Kratom for almost ten years, and I am a strong advocate for the plant. I have severe obsessive-compulsive disorder, as well as anxiety and a tic disorder. Kratom significantly helps reduce my anxiety, which in turn helps me manage the tics, ruminations, and other difficult symptoms caused by my conditions. Science will support that the natural plant in its unadulterated state poses no threat to the public health and safety. I believe that products containing 7-OH are in fact the problem and should be recognized as such. I understand that there is some misinformation, but I would like to kindly note that natural kratom and 7-OH are very different products.

Respectfully asking you to consider regulation, and not prohibition. Please think of the many individuals who rely on natural kratom for support in their daily lives and try to see this from our perspective. This is a deeply important issue to proponents like myself, who are able to live happy and healthy lives thanks to kratom, a natural plant.

thank you for your sincere consideration

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Tony Rodini

From: [ED ARTHUR](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Kratom ban
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 7:10:46 PM

I understand that you are planning to ban all Kratom products. Please take a moment to hear my personal story regarding this plant. I am not in your community, I live in Irvine, but I feel it's important that all municipalities understand the benefits to people who are using this plant responsibly.

My name is Ed Arthur. I am 78 years old and retired at age 75 after working as a wood finisher for over 50 years. I am also a Vietnam veteran, and I was self-employed. I have used kratom for probably 15 years with absolutely no harmful effects whatsoever. I take a small dose twice a day, and it helps with energy and pain relief, as I have spinal stenosis and two torn rotator cuffs. I credit it for my ability to work happily until age 75 and to continue a very productive and active life in my senior

<https://url.us.mimecastprotect.com/s/SGwfCmZV6mUjNrmAhGfpIRUQWv?domain=years.it> is my great desire to see this natural leaf product remain available to me. On the other hand, I would greatly appreciate regulations against the synthetic product called 7-OH (or 70H). It sounds highly addictive and gives our natural leaf a bad name. Thank you so much for your consideration. Ed Arthur
Irvine, California

From: [K.M](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Kratom regulation
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 9:09:04 PM



To whomever needs to hear this,

My name is Kathryn Magliaro. I am 56 yrs old. I have been married for 36 years. And I am the mother of two adult children.

For many years ,my children basically lost me functioning as their mum,and my husband lost me functioning as his wife. Why ? Because in 2007 I was diagnosed with Trigeminal Neuralgia. If you do a quick Google search, you will soon find out that Neurology medical literature label this as one of the worst pains known in all of medicine. And that's no exaggeration. There is no cure, there is literally only pain management. It also has the moniker of "the suicide disease ." Why? Because it is very difficult to find anything that helps the pain ,so some opt to end their lives as their form of managing, ending their pain. I underwent 2 brain surgeries, they failed to help. I endured years of anti seizure meds, anti depressants, and every opiate available. Nothing helped my pain. As the years progressed, and the pain roared on, I did less ,and less living. Until I was basically bed ridden.

That lasted from approximately 2010 through 2018. And I also battled those suicidal thoughts every single day, multiple times a day. I wanted this pain to just stop.

But in 2019 I discovered this leaf Kratom. It was the only thing that helped me. I take it still to this day as a form of pain management. And over time I have received back everything I lost to this nerve disease. My family has me back functioning in the family, participating in their lives,and being present. For the first time, I have started to consider helping financially again, because I couldn't for all those years. I am back to hobbies doing crafts, and painting . Even those were things I had to stop.

I always have taken pure leaf dried Kratom. Please understand this pure leaf dried Kratom is helping thousands of people like myself. This leaf absolutely saved me, I no longer have those suicidal thoughts. And like I mentioned i am living life again. Please do not prevent the thousands of people who need this to help their pain, please don't make it in accessible for them. If that is done, you are potentially forcing all of those people to be criminals, to get what is effective at helping their pain.

We are supporting regulations. We want regulations. But we do not support a ban. Please follow the scientific research that is being done at the University of Florida. For 15 plus years they have been studying this leaf. Even the FDA did an observational study and printed that they could not find this leaf caused any harm, at any dose that was given. The FDA printed that. Please follow the science, and regulate this ,still making it available to those thousands upon thousands whom need it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Kathryn Magliaro

From: [Denise Geltman](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: 8.34 + 8.36 PLEASE DO NOT BAN NATURAL LEAF KRATOM
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 10:17:57 PM



Dear City Council Members,

You may not know this but in November 2024, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former head of the FDA went directly to the UN/WHO to ask them to ban NATURAL LEAF KRATOM worldwide.

THEY TOLD HIM NO because it helps so many people around the World.

My name is Denise Geltman. I have been taking NATURAL LEAF KRATOM for 10 years. I am 61 years old.

I suffer from chronic nerve pain and spasms all over my body, It is torture.

NATURAL LEAF KRATOM is my most important tool in my chronic pain toolbox. Because of NATURAL LEAF KRATOM I have been able to hold a part time job for 10 years and live my life instead of existing in pain.

Please do not ban NATURAL LEAF KRATOM because it helps so many people.

The current FDA recently finished a study which found NATURAL LEAF KRATOM is SAFE in EVERY dose.

However, I am in full support of banning SYNTHETIC 7-OH products. They are super dangerous.

Thank you for your time. I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Denise Geltman



denisegeltman@



From: [Venus Lynn](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment Opposing Kratom Restrictions - Agenda Item 15.a
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:40:08 AM



Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

My name is Venus Usher. Although I do not live in California, decisions being made in Palm Desert matter to people like me across the country. I would also like to visit one day, bans make that impossible.

I live with severe chronic pain conditions, including interstitial cystitis, fibromyalgia, recurrent kidney stone pain, and abdominal adhesions that required a three hour surgery. These conditions do not go away. They do not get better. They are lifelong.

For seventeen years I was dismissed, misdiagnosed, and labeled. I was placed in rehab over pain medication that had been prescribed to me. I was treated as though I was the problem instead of the patient. When traditional medicine failed me, kratom was the only thing that allowed me to regain a basic level of function and dignity.

Kratom is not a recreational thrill for me. It is the reason I can get out of bed. It is the reason I can participate in life instead of simply enduring it.

When cities move to restrict sales and possession by grouping kratom in with tobacco or smoking regulations, it sends a message that people like me are doing something wrong just by trying to manage our pain. Restrictions that go too far do not protect us. They make us vulnerable. They push access away from regulated storefronts and into uncertain territory. They create fear where there should be compassion.

There are responsible ways to regulate kratom. Age limits. Testing requirements. Clear labeling. Consumer protection standards. Those approaches protect public safety without criminalizing adults who are simply trying to live with less suffering.

Please understand that this is not an abstract policy debate. Behind every ordinance are real human beings. Veterans. Chronic pain patients. People in recovery. Mothers. Fathers. People who have already been through enough.

I am asking you to think of us when you consider Agenda Item 15.a. Choose balanced regulation over unnecessary restriction. Choose compassion over fear.

Thank you for your time and for considering the human impact of your decision.

Sincerely,
Venus Usher
New Castle, De 19720


My Story: <https://share.google/FmmBi7LTUucD1NZQD>

From: lora@ [REDACTED]
To: [CityClerk](mailto:lora@)
Subject: I approve kratom language in 8.34.010
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 6:25:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Dear Palm Desert City Council –

I wanted to thank you for introducing a good ordinance regarding kratom in your city. As a pain patient, 9-year kratom consumer and as a kratom educator, I appreciate that you are recognizing the real need for this supplement in your community. Untreated pain is becoming an incredibly common occurrence due to the opioid crisis. Kratom is a great alternative to prescribed pain medication. It is also an incredibly helpful tool for those moving away from illicit drugs or prescribed opioids due to abuse. I truly appreciate that you recognized that there is a real difference between natural leaf kratom and the synthetic products like 7-OH.

Once again, thank you for being responsible and taking the needs of your citizens to heart.

Yours Truly -

Lora Romney



From: [Michele Inman](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Hearing on Regulating Kratom
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 8:21:14 AM

To whom it may concern,

As a local resident and Kratom user, I'm writing to ask that Kratom be protected from being banned in our area. It is a valuable resource for mental and physical health and a great alternative to pharmaceutical products.

As someone who has had chronic pain, depression and anxiety, I know from experience that Kratom can be useful in treatment of pain and other discomforts. Unlike cannabis or opioids, Kratom does not lead to addiction or drowsiness caused by other analgesic supplements

Kratom is also often used against social anxiety, phobia and depression. I find with minimal use, that (especially) in public, I feel less afraid. Kratom can make me more talkative, friendly and cheerful. Personally, I'm more inclined to immerse myself among people while being more comfortable in my own skin.

Please also take into consideration, although alcohol and cannabis is legal in CA, most employers do not allow or accept any use of these products because of their obvious side effects and safety concerns.

There needs to be a safe alternative and natural, botanical Kratom is that solution.

Michele Inman
[REDACTED] text or call

From: [Abdullah Mamun](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: I am in support for 8.34.010 as written
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 9:43:50 AM



Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the thoughtful language included in Agenda Item 8.34.010. It is encouraging to see policymakers take the time to listen to community members and recognize that a natural plant, used for centuries worldwide and for decades within the United States, can serve as a safer alternative for many individuals—particularly those concerned about the dependency risks associated with certain prescribed medications.

My name is Abdullah Mamun, and I am the owner of Authentic Kratom, a company I founded more than 12 years ago in Los Angeles, California. Our business focuses exclusively on natural kratom products, all of which are compliant with California's regulatory framework, including the standards reflected in your ordinance.

Over the past two years, the emergence of synthetic kratom derivatives, often referred to as "7-OH" products, has significantly impacted the marketplace. I have personally witnessed the negative consequences these products can have, including customers coming into our stores seeking help to discontinue their use. It has been deeply concerning to observe the harm caused by these synthetic alternatives, which further underscores the importance of responsible, evidence-based local policies such as the one your city has implemented.

The steps your city has taken are truly commendable, and I hope neighboring jurisdictions will look to your leadership as a model. I also work closely with organizations such as the American Kratom Association and the Global Kratom Coalition. If there are any resources, research, or perspectives that may be helpful to you or your colleagues, I would be glad to assist in any way possible.

Please feel free to reach out using the contact information below if you need clarification or additional information.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to protecting and serving your community. Your efforts set an important standard.

Sincerely,

Abdullah Mamun

CEO

Authentic Kratom®

www.authentickratom.com

Tel: [REDACTED]

From: [jordan thomas](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Kratom ban
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 2:58:13 PM

Hi my name is Jordan Thomas. I am a resident of La Quinta. I am a 41 year old ex golf professional. I lost my health and life about 7 years ago. I have PTSD, Charcot Marie Tooth disease, and severe osteoarthritis. I take kratom to sleep and rehab. I could not sleep or train without it. If I couldn't sleep or train, I would be bedridden in a wheelchair. It is a plant medicine for many people out here with illnesses. Opioids can be toxic, addictive, and have side effects like constipation. That would be my other option and it isn't one. I have tried everything from CBD to celebrex and gabapentin. I would lose what's left of my quality of life health wise if Kratom was banned. Please consider this for me and many others in a similar situation. Please enforce law on the extracts and age but not the plant in general. It is used as a medicine. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thanks again,
Jordan Thomas Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matthew McHolland](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Protect Kratom in Palm Desert — Regulate, Don't Ban
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:50:19 PM



Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

My name is Matthew W. McHolland, and I am here today to ask you to choose regulation over prohibition — education over fear — and balance over reaction.

An estimated 5 to 15 million Americans currently use kratom. That is not a fringe population. That is millions of veterans, mothers, construction workers, small business owners, and seniors. These are not criminals. These are ordinary people seeking relief.

And we must begin with clarity.

There is a critical distinction between raw, natural kratom leaf — traditionally brewed as tea — and synthetic or adulterated products.

Raw kratom leaf is a botanical. It is a member of the coffee family. It has been used traditionally in Southeast Asia for generations.

What creates danger in any market is not the plant itself — it is contamination, synthetic analogues, and lack of standards.

That is why kratom literacy is key.

Kratom literacy means understanding the difference between raw leaf and highly concentrated extracts. It means knowing what adulterated products are. It means educating consumers instead of criminalizing them. It means labeling, age restrictions, and accountability.

I support restricting kratom sales to adults 21 and over. That is responsible. That protects youth. But banning kratom entirely will not eliminate use — it will eliminate safety.

When people who rely on kratom tea for chronic pain, anxiety, or depression suddenly lose access, they do not simply stop suffering. Many of them have already been abandoned by the medical system. Some were cut off from prescriptions. Some cannot tolerate pharmaceuticals. Some are trying to avoid far more dangerous substances.

If you remove a plant-based option that many consider manageable and functional, you risk pushing people toward far more harmful alternatives.

We have seen this before. In 2016, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration attempted to emergency schedule kratom nationwide. What happened next was historic. The public response was overwhelming — one of the largest public comment responses in FDA history. Veterans, patients, researchers, and families showed up in record numbers. And the DEA withdrew the ban.

Why?

Because decisions are made by those who show up.

And millions showed up to say: this plant matters.

Palm Desert has an opportunity to lead wisely. You can distinguish between raw botanical leaf and synthetics. You can enforce 21+ age restrictions. You can implement smart regulation that protects consumers while preserving access.

A ban may sound decisive. But education is stronger. Regulation is smarter. And literacy saves lives.

Please do not punish responsible adults. Do not remove a lifeline for those quietly managing their pain. Do not create unintended consequences.

Choose regulation. Choose literacy. Choose balance.

Thank you for your time and your leadership.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. McHolland

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Marcelle Smith](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 15A – Kratom Regulations Feb. 26 Public Hearing
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 5:39:25 PM



Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing regarding the February 26 public hearing on proposed kratom regulations.

I support thoughtful regulation that protects youth and promotes public safety. Measures such as age restrictions, clear labeling, and prohibiting synthetic or high-potency products are reasonable safeguards.

At the same time, I urge the Council to ensure that any ordinance is carefully drafted so it does not unintentionally eliminate access for responsible adults or lawful natural leaf kratom products. Policies should distinguish between natural products and synthetic or enhanced substances and avoid overly broad definitions that could create unintended consequences or push consumers toward unregulated markets.

A balanced, evidence-based approach can protect public health while preserving responsible adult access.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marcelle Morfin
California

From: [Stephen McIntosh](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Agenda Item 15a (RE: Kratom)
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 12:00:42 AM



To the Clerk and Honorable City Councilors,

I would like to take a moment to voice my SUPPORT for Agenda Item 15a, Regulation of Kratom. I read the ordinance carefully, and I appreciate that you differentiate between natural kratom and synthetics.

I am a permanently disabled retiree with advanced heart failure and chronic pain. Like many pain patients, my medication was stopped against my will in 2018. Like many Americans in general, I have very little choice in the insurance offered through my wife's employer. Our household income is too high for Medi-Cal and for subsidized policies through Covered CA. My insurance (a popular HMO) only allows me to see their providers if I want office visits, prescriptions, or procedures to be covered.

Botanical kratom allows me to do basic housework and the PT cardiology has recommended.

Due to my health, many options are unavailable to me such as NSAIDs (cardiovascular risk) or TENS/electrostimulators (pacemaker). Some have not worked very well or caused significant side effects, such as medical cannabis.

Local access to botanical kratom is of extreme importance to me, and I thank you for preserving it while addressing real concerns about adulterated products and underage access.

Thank you again,

Stephen C. McIntosh, MBA
Software Developer and Instructor of Computer Information Systems (Ret.)

From: [Miriam Campillo Macedonio](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: A Call for Humane, Science-Based Kratom Policy
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:13:08 PM



My name is Miriam Campillo Macedonio, and I am writing as a deeply concerned resident regarding the City Council hearing on kratom

Kratom is derived from the leaves of the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree, native to Indonesia, where it has been used safely for generations as a natural leaf tea. When consumed in its pure, unadulterated form, natural kratom has helped countless individuals manage chronic pain, stress, fatigue, and other health challenges—often when conventional medical treatments have failed or caused harmful side effects. The public safety concerns most often cited in policy discussions are overwhelmingly linked to synthetic kratom extracts or products contaminated with other substances, not the traditional, natural leaf itself.

Policies that restrict or ban natural kratom—and especially those that criminalize possession—are not only misguided, but inhumane. Reprimanding or penalizing individuals for possessing natural plant leaves used responsibly for wellness purposes punishes people who are seeking relief, not causing harm. Such measures would disproportionately impact law-abiding residents who are simply trying to maintain their health and dignity. Criminalization does not protect public safety; instead, it stigmatizes and marginalizes vulnerable members of our community.

Many Americans who rely on natural kratom are individuals who have been failed by the traditional medical system: mothers and fathers caring for their families, hardworking employees striving to remain productive, and veterans coping with physical and emotional pain. These are not reckless users—they are everyday people doing their best to live healthy, stable lives. Restricting access to natural kratom would leave them with fewer safe options and may push some toward far riskier alternatives, including stronger pharmaceuticals.

I respectfully ask the Council to pursue a balanced, science-based approach—one that protects residents from unsafe synthetic products while preserving access to safe, natural kratom. Regulation, quality standards, and education are far more effective and humane than prohibition or punishment. Palm Desert has the opportunity to lead with reason, evidence, and compassion.

Please consider the voices of constituents who rely on natural kratom for their well-being. By safeguarding responsible access, Palm Desert can uphold personal freedom, public health, and humane governance.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Miriam Campillo Macedonio

From: [bavardcuiss](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Kratom Ban
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 4:44:28 AM



Good Afternoon Councilmembers,

I've chosen to speak out once again because I'm scared. For me, kratom has been one of the only things that gives me any quality of life. It eases my pain. It helps me stay stable enough to do basic things — preparing food, caring for myself and without it, my world becomes much smaller.

I'm here as someone living with myalgic encephalomyelitis sometimes known as ME/CFS, a disabling illness that took over my life at age 15. ME/CFS is a Neuro immune disease that causes pain, cognitive dysfunction, and exhaustion that makes even simple tasks impossible. There is no cure, no FDA-approved treatment, and no standard medical pathway for people like me. Every day is about survival and trying to hold onto whatever small pieces of functioning I can.

I want to be very clear: I use kratom responsibly, carefully, and out of necessity — not recreationally. I use raw leaf natural products, not synthetics. The difference between them needs to be distinguished.

I'm not alone. many people with my disease and many others use for management of pain and other chronic conditions. Due to the respiratory depression opioid narcotics can induce, raw unadulterated kratom leaf may be safer. This lends itself to why the CDC has no verified raw-leaf-only kratom deaths on record and the FDA has never documented a single death caused solely by natural kratom leaf. The World Health Organization conducted a scientific review of kratom and chose not to recommend a global ban. Their Expert Committee on Drug Dependence concluded there was inadequate evidence to justify stricter international control. Another report noted the WHO voted 11–1 against recommending international scheduling after reviewing the data. That matters. It shows that global health authorities — after examining the evidence — did not find kratom to be the kind of public danger that warrants prohibition.

I understand the city's concerns. Safety matters to all of us. We know from decades of public-health research: banning a substance does not stop its use. It simply pushes it underground, where it becomes more dangerous, more likely to be misused and where no one will be checking for age.

Banning it won't stop misuse — but it will take away one of the only tools that people like me have to manage a disabling illness with no treatment options. It will punish responsible users while doing nothing to address the real risks like synthetics and accessibility to those under 21.

I'm asking you to consider the human impact. To see the people behind the policy. To understand that for some of us, kratom is not a luxury — it is a lifeline. We aren't criminals.

Please don't take away one of the only things that allows me to live with dignity, stability, and

some measure of relief.

Thank you for your time.

Heather S.

La Quinta Resident

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.