

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Office of the Mayor

Mayor Dan Sullivan

Phone: 907-343-7100
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January 28, 2011

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 17

Dear Senator Meyer,

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 17, *"An Act classifying certain synthetic cannabinoids as schedule IIA controlled substances; and providing for an effective date."*

The Municipality of Anchorage fully supports the passage of SB 17 and its companion bill, HB 7. In the last few years, the use of synthetic cannabinoids has quickly become a significant health and public safety issue.

Due to the huge range in potency between the various compounds and products, municipal first responders have encountered users of these drugs having severe reactions, including from bizarre and dangerous behavior to unconsciousness and death. Users who operate machinery, especially motor vehicles, have had significant accidents and present a danger to others that is on par with operating under the influence of alcohol.

In response, the Municipality has enacted its own local code, but does not have the jurisdiction to deal with the influx of the drug on a state-wide basis or impose the kinds of meaningful criminal sentences that are needed to stem the manufacture, distribution, and sale of these drugs.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Sullivan".

Dan Sullivan
Mayor