



PRESS RELEASE

Washtenaw County Officials Take Steps to Stop Sale of Synthetic Marijuana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washtenaw County Officials met on June 6, 2012 to solidify an action plan that will address the serious threat to our community from the sale of synthetic marijuana and other designer drugs. In response to increasing concerns over the dangers of these drugs, Washtenaw County Public Health officials are directing that merchants immediately stop selling synthetic marijuana (e.g. K2, K6, Spice) and other synthetic drugs including bath salts (e.g. White Rush, Purple Rain, Vanilla Sky). These substances have been identified as causing serious health problems including suicidal thoughts, violent behavior, psychosis and even death. Please go to the Washtenaw County [Public Health website](#) for in-depth information on these drugs.

In cooperation with Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, Washtenaw Community Health Organization, Washtenaw County Public Health Department, and Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office, Washtenaw County Administration announces a plan to identify those businesses that pledge not to sell K2 or any other synthetic designer drugs and will be supporting their efforts with a [decal program](#). Individual businesses that are identified as continuing to sell will be subject to orders from the Health Department to remove these products from the store. Washtenaw County Health Officer Richard Fleece states that "Public education and consumer pressure is the most effective means of removing these drugs from the community. In the event that individual merchants deliberately ignore the threat that these drugs pose, we will issue public health orders to enforce compliance." If anyone witnesses a merchant selling these drugs, they should contact their local law enforcement official.

According to County Administrator Verna McDaniel, "We are hearing that due to public pressure and increased knowledge of the danger these products pose, many businesses have already stopped selling these products. We applaud these efforts." Merchants that pledge to remove these dangerous substances will receive a decal to post indicating that their establishment does not sell K2 or any other synthetic designer drugs. "We hope that the public will assist us in frequenting the stores that have acted responsibly in addressing this public health concern and identify stores that have not taken the pledge."

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