



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

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January 31, 2020
Terri D Stroud, Esq.
General Counsel
DC Board of Elections
1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750
Washington DC 20003

Re: Entheogenic Plant and Fungus Policy Act of 2020 SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Stroud:

I come here today representing the Law Enforcement Action Partnership, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit of police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement officials working to improve the criminal justice system. We believe that including the Entheogenic Plant and Fungus Policy Act on the DC ballot this November would advance that cause and ask you to allow it to appear.

I worked as a police officer in Baltimore for 34 years, where I learned how much more destructive to a person's life being prosecuted for a drug crime can be than using the drug ever was. An arrest or incarceration record limits a person's job and housing opportunities, eligibility for student aid and home loans, voting rights, access to public benefits... the list goes on and on.

Our current system fails to acknowledge the religious and medicinal uses of many non-addictive plant medicines that have been used for thousands of years by indigenous cultures and by present-day communities. Generations of anecdotal evidence and current [clinical research at leading universities including John Hopkins, NYU, and UCLA](#), point to therapeutic uses for psychedelic drugs in treating complex mental health issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, treatment-resistant depression, and addiction.

Drugs are classified arbitrarily and not based on science. Many prescription drugs are not regulated enough, while plant medicines are controlled by illegal markets that can make their use more dangerous. In a time of rampant opioid overdoses, police and veteran suicides caused by PTSD, and an unaddressed mental health crisis in this country, no one should go to jail for using a natural medicine to try to heal themselves.

For all these reasons, the Law Enforcement Action Partnership supports decriminalizing natural psychedelics in the District of Columbia.

LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org

Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

Sincerely,

Major Neill Franklin (Ret.)

Executive Director, Law Enforcement Action Partnership