



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16962

Proposed No. 2026-0017.2

Sponsors Mosqueda and Dembowski

1 A MOTION stating the council's support for continued
2 entheogen-related research for alternative treatment
3 modalities, structured medical models, and full
4 decriminalization of entheogen-related activities and
5 requesting that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of
6 any adult engaging in certain entheogen-related activities
7 be among King County's lowest criminal enforcement
8 priorities.

9 WHEREAS, entheogen is a term that encompasses any living, fresh, dried, or
10 processed plant or fungal material, including teas or powders, that may contain currently
11 scheduled or analog psychoactive indolamines, tryptamines, or phenethylamines,
12 including, but not limited to, psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca tea, mescaline, and iboga,
13 and does not include synthetic, chemically modified, isolated, concentrated, or analog
14 derivatives thereof, and

15 WHEREAS, depression, severe anxiety, problematic substance use, post-
16 traumatic stress, end-of-life anxiety, grief, isolation, intergenerational trauma, and other
17 physical and mental conditions are plaguing many communities, and scientific and
18 clinical studies show the benefits of entheogens in treating these conditions, and

19 WHEREAS, communities face unprecedented mental health crisis, unprecedented
20 suicide rates, especially among veterans and marginalized groups, and a deepening opioid

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21 addiction crisis and the Washington state Legislature can contribute to removing stigmas
22 through public education and supporting community mental health efforts, and

23 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration-sanctioned clinical
24 trials show positive results that demonstrate the safety and efficacy of psilocybin assisted
25 therapy, and

26 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration designated
27 psilocybin-assisted therapy as a breakthrough therapy for treatment-resistant depression
28 in 2018 and major depressive disorder in 2019, and

29 WHEREAS, human cultures around the world recognize entheogens as sacred
30 and have used them as part of their cultural, spiritual, and religious practices for
31 generations, and

32 WHEREAS, a variety of jurisdictions in the United States, including the cities of
33 Olympia, Port Townsend, Seattle, and Tacoma and Jefferson County, have supported
34 decriminalization of entheogens, and Colorado, Oregon, and Washington, D.C., have
35 decriminalized some or all entheogens through successful ballot initiatives, and

36 WHEREAS, decriminalization of entheogens does not undermine the seriousness
37 of the opioid epidemic and impact of harmful substances on the lives of individuals,
38 families, and communities;

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

40 A. The council states its support for continued research for entheogen-related
41 alternative treatment modalities and structured medical models. The council further
42 states its support for the full decriminalization of the limited, personal, noncommercial

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43 use and possession of naturally occurring entheogens by persons twenty-one years old or
44 older in nonpublic places at the state and federal level.

45 B.1. The council requests that investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any
46 persons twenty-one years old or older engaging in the limited, noncommercial cultivation
47 and possession of naturally occurring entheogens for religious, spiritual or individual
48 personal use be designated as among King County's lowest criminal enforcement
49 priorities, and further requests that county funds or resources not be used for
50 investigation, prosecution, or arrest of persons twenty-one years old or older possessing
51 or using entheogenic plants or fungi for religious, spiritual, healing, or personal use
52 practices.

53 2. For the purposes of this section B., "personal use" and "cultivation" shall be
54 limited to quantities and methods reasonably consistent with small-scale, individual,
55 noncommercial use and shall not include distribution, remuneration, repeated provision to
56 third parties, or the operation of organized production or supply networks.

57 3. The request is only intended to request King County sheriff's office designate
58 entheogen cultivation for the aforementioned purposes as among the lowest law
59 enforcement priorities in unincorporated areas. The request does not reflect any intent on
60 the part of the council for King County sheriff's office deputies in the Muckleshoot tribe
61 or contract cities to deviate from the tribe or contract cities' laws, procedures, or
62 priorities.

63 4. This section B. reflects the intent on the part of the council only to request the
64 King County prosecuting attorney designate cases under its jurisdiction for the
65 aforementioned purposes related to entheogens as among the lowest prosecution

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priorities. This section B. does not reflect any intent on the part of the council to request the King County prosecuting attorney decline to prosecute cases for this offense which involve other substances or where the conduct has put public safety at risk. Further, this section B. does not reflect any intent on the part of the council to limit the authority or obligation of King County law enforcement, prosecutors, or emergency responders to act when conduct presents an immediate risk to public health or safety, involving impaired driving, violence, child welfare concerns, medical emergencies, or otherwise constitutes a violation of state or federal law.

C. The council's passage of this motion does not reflect any intent on the part of the council to support or encourage:

1. Driving under the influence of entheogenic plants or fungi;
2. Possession or distribution of entheogens in schools;
3. Use of entheogenic plants or fungi on any form of public transit or in public places;
4. Possession, distribution, or sale of entheogenic plants or fungi by or to persons under twenty-one years old;
5. Commercial manufacturing or sales of entheogenic plants or fungi; or
6. Conduct that puts public safety at risk.

D. Nothing in this motion shall be interpreted to alter, supersede, or limit the

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- 85 application of state or federal law, or to confer any legal right, defense, or immunity
- 86 under such law, nor shall it be construed to create any private cause of action.

Motion 16962 was introduced on 1/27/2026 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/24/2026, by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Barón, Dembowski, Fain, Lewis, Mosqueda and Perry

No: 2 - Balducci and Dunn

Excused: 1 - von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:

Sarah Perry

062AC77E76FB49B...

Sarah Perry, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Hay

8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

Certificate Of Completion

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Melani Hay

melani.hay@kingcounty.gov

Clerk of the Council

King County Council

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