



COUNCIL DECISION REQUEST

SUBJECT: Regulation of Designer Drugs

MEETING DATE: February 16, 2012

SUBMITTED BY: Tim Wright *TA*

SUBMITTAL TO AGENDA
APPROVED BY TOWN MANAGER

AMOUNT BUDGETED: 0

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED: 0

TA

EXHIBITS (If Applicable, To Be Attached): SB 1043, SB 1073, HB 2356, HB 2667

POSSIBLE MOTION I move to direct Town Staff to continue investigating what can be done at the local level to protect persons from the sale and use of designer drugs.

SUMMARY OF THE BASIS FOR POSSIBLE MOTION:

Recently there has been a significant increase in the use and sale of *designer drugs*. The term *designer drug* generally describes a group of drugs that are created to get around existing drug laws. This is typically done by preparing analogs or derivatives of existing drugs, i.e. chemists modify compounds in small ways such that the new compound does not meet the technical definition of an illegal drug. In Arizona, *spice* was one of the early and well known designer drugs. In 2011, the Arizona Legislature outlawed *spice*, but the chemists were not far behind creating a new generation of *designer drugs*. This new generation is chemically distinct, yet produces similar results. There are currently bills in both the Arizona House and Senate to outlaw this new generation of *designer drugs*. Both bills have an emergency clause and therefore would take effect immediately upon passage and signature by the Governor. The prevailing wisdom is that that one or both of these bills will pass, but such passage is not likely until March. There are also several bills that would attempt to address the issue of future generations of *designer drugs*. See attached bills.

Staff believes there are currently 3 locations in Payson where the current generation of these dangerous, but legal *designer drugs* can be obtained under such names as bath salts and potpourri. Over the last several weeks, Town Staff has been monitoring the status of the bills in the legislature and has had several meetings to discuss what the Town might do on the local level to address *designer drugs*. *Designer drugs* present a complex problem because (1) *designer drugs* are not limited a specific substance (such as marijuana) or a specific chemical compound (such as amphetamines), (2) *designer drugs* create a constantly moving target, and (3) because of this lack of consistency, the effects of *designer drugs* are often unpredictable. Staff is looking for options

FEB 16 2012 I.I



COUNCIL DECISION REQUEST

that will dovetail with State Legislation and address not only the current generation of *designer drugs*, but the next generation as well. Staff has been in contact with several individual Council Members on this issue. As Staff continues to develop ways to address designer drugs, Staff desires to have the support of the entire Council for this effort.

PROS:

CONS:

FUNDING:

Acct:
Acct:
Acct:

Budget:
Budget:
Budget:

Available:
Available:
Available:

Expense:
Expense:
Expense:

Remaining:
Remaining:
Remaining:

FM: _____

Date: _____