

**ORDINANCE NO. 1767-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI PROHIBITING THE USE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION, SALE OR OFFERING FOR SALE OF SYNTHETIC COCAINE, OTHER SYNTHETIC PRODUCTS, OR KRATOM**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) has issued several warnings (<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>) addressing illegal marketing of the drug’s unproven ability to treat opioid withdrawal, heavy metals found in kratom products, and a recall on kratom products due to a risk of salmonella; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no FDA approved uses for the drug. The FDA is concerned that kratom, which affects the same opioid brain receptors as morphine, appears to have properties that expose users to the risks of addiction, abuse, and dependence; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2017, the FDA issued a public safety advisory warning for consumers not to use kratom because “it appears to have properties that expose users to the risks of addiction, abuse, and dependence;” and

**WHEREAS**, kratom is not controlled under the Controlled Substances Act, and there are no state regulations or prohibitions against the possession and use of kratom. The FDA has not approved kratom for any medical use. In addition, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has listed kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Mayo Clinic (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/consumer-health/in-depth/kratom/art-20402171>), (1) studies on the effects of kratom have identified many safety concerns and no clear benefits, (2) kratom has been reported to cause abnormal brain function when taken with prescription medicines, causing severe headache, the inability communicate or confusion; (3) in a study testing kratom as a treatment for symptoms of opioid withdrawal, people who took kratom for more than six months reported withdrawal symptoms similar to those that occur after opioid use. Too, people who use kratom may begin craving it and require treatments given for opioid addiction, such as naloxone (Narcan) and buprenorphine (Buprenex); (4) Kratom adversely affects infant development. When kratom is used during pregnancy, the baby may be born with symptoms of withdrawal that require treatment; and (5) as of April 2018, more than 130 people in 38 states became ill with Salmonella after taking kratom. Salmonella poisoning may be fatal, and as of then, the FDA had linked more than 35 deaths to Salmonella-tainted kratom. Salmonella contamination has no obvious signs, so the best way to avoid becoming ill is to avoid products that may contain it; and now therefore, in order to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizenry,

**BE IT ORDAINED** that the City of Laurel, Mississippi hereby adopts the following Ordinance which prohibits the use, purchase, possession, distribution, sale or offering for sale of synthetic cocaine, other synthetic products, or kratom, as set forth herein below, to-wit:

**Section 1. Use, purchase, possession, distribution, sale or offering for sale of synthetic cocaine, other synthetic products, or kratom; prohibited. 129 Section 7, Item F)**

(a) No person shall use, possess, purchase, distribute, manufacture, sell or attempt to use, possess, purchase, distribute or sale or publicly display for sale any one or more of the following within the city:

(1) Products sold as “bath salts” under the trade names: Ivory wave, bliss, white lightning, hurricane Charlie, super code, cloud 9, peeve, ocean magic, white dove, and other trade names, and/or containing one or more of the following compounds or chemicals:

- a. u3,4-Mehtylene-dioxymethcathinone (Methylone);
- b. u3,4-Methyenedioxy-pyrovalerone (MDPV);
- c. u4-Methylmeth-cathinone (Mephedrone);
- d. u4-Methoxymeth-cathinone;
- e. u4-Fluorometh-cathinone.

(2) Products sold as “kratom,” or any part of the plant *Mitragyna Speciosa*, *Mitragyna Speciosa* Korth, *Mitragyna speciosa* leaf extract, *Mitragyna speciosa* extract, whether growing or not, and any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, capsule, tablet, caplet, gelcap, pill, powder, liquid, vegetative material, mixture, or preparation of the plant, including but not limited to any product containing mitragynine, or 7-hydroxymitragynine.

(3) This includes any *Mitragyna speciose* specific alkaloids, isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, and ethers, including but not limited to synthetics or natural products which include the active ingredients in kratom, such as:

- a. Ajmalicine (raubasine);
  - b. Mitraphylline;
  - c. Rhynchophylline;
  - d. Mitragynine pseudoindoxyl;
- a) If any of the aforementioned substances shall be found in the possession of any person, unless specifically excluded herein, the substances shall be confiscated by law enforcement officials.
  - b) It shall not be an offense under subsection (a) above of this section if a person shall be acting at the direction of an authorized agent of the city to enforce or ensure compliance with this law prohibiting the use, possession, purchase, distribution or sale or the attempt to use, possess, purchase, distribute or sale or publicly display for sale the aforementioned substances.
  - c) This section shall not apply to any person who shall commit any act described in this section pursuant to the direction or prescription of a duly licensed physician or dentist

authorized to direct or prescribe such act. This section shall not apply to the inhalation of anesthesia for a medical or dental purpose which inhalation or anesthesia shall be administered by or under the supervision of a duly licensed physician or dentist.

- d) Any person found to be guilty of violating this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed six months or both.

The foregoing Ordinance shall become effective 30 (thirty) days following approval of the Second Reading.

Motion was made by Councilperson Capers seconded by Councilperson Jordan, for the adoption and approval of the Second Reading of said Ordinance at this regular meeting of the City Council.

Upon roll call vote, the result was as follows:

YEAS: Capers, Thaxton, Ellis, Amos, Jordan

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Kelly, Carmichael

The President thereupon declared the motion carried and the Second reading of the Ordinance adopted, this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, A.D., 2025.

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PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

ATTESTED AND SUBMITTED TO THE MAYOR BY THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL ON

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CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

APPROVED ( ) DATE\_\_\_\_\_

VETOED ( ) DATE\_\_\_\_\_

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

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