

OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

FRANK S. McCOY
CHIEF OF POLICE

CORE VALUES
Trust
Personal Responsibility
Quality Service
Partnership
Community Safety
Diversity

May 24, 2011

Dear Retailer:

This letter is in support of the North Coastal Prevention Coalition (NCPC) efforts to reduce the availability of synthetic drug products found in the cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad and Vista.

The availability of synthetic drugs found in products such as herbal incense and bath salts is a concern to law enforcement, parents, and many community groups. On March 1, 2011 the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a final order published in the Federal Register (76 Fed. Reg. 11075) temporarily placing five synthetic cannabinoids into the Controlled Substance Act as Schedule 1 substances. In addition, federal legislators are proposing new legislation to curtail the growing marketing and use of these products.

Nationally, calls to poison control centers from problems resulting from herbal incense have increased dramatically – from 13 calls in 2009 to over 1,000 in 2010. Despite labels stating “not for human consumption” many retailers and consumers are aware these products are used as an alternative to marijuana.

While the legal details are being worked out at the federal level, we are calling upon our local business community to stop the sale of products used as synthetic marijuana and stimulants to demonstrate support for public health and safety. Though some of these products may not be illegal at this time, we know they pose a health and safety risk to consumers. By refusing to sell them, you may help prevent customers from suffering illness or injury.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our department at 760-435-4688

Sincerely,



Frank S. McCoy
Chief of Police