

City Council Regular Meeting

December 4, 2025

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Public Comment Packet

ITEM(S)

2-V (ID 25-1640) ***BILL B-54 (Introduced November 20, 2025)(For Adoption) Adding Chapter 10 of Article 28 of the Fresno Municipal Code, relating to the regulation of the sale and distribution of kratom products within the City limits (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

Contents of Supplement: Public comment emails

Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2025 DEC -3 P 12:33

RECEIVED

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Please DO NOT pass a ban on natural kratom products. BAN 7-OH.
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:23:39 PM
Attachments: [Lora Romney November 2025.pdf](#)

Comment for the 12/4/25 Council meeting, item 2-V ID 25-1640.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 3:05 PM
To: District1 [REDACTED] >; District2 [REDACTED] District3
[REDACTED]; District4 [REDACTED]; District5 [REDACTED]; District6
[REDACTED]; District7 [REDACTED]
Subject: Please DO NOT pass a ban on natural kratom products. BAN 7-OH.

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council –

Please DO NOT pass the proposed regulation that will ban kratom in your city. Instead, follow the path that numerous other CA cities have recently followed and responsibly regulate natural kratom. The complete ban should be on the synthetic 7-OH products. They are the products that are causing the health and safety issues in your community. Natural kratom has hundreds of peer-reviewed, scientific studies to back its safety. Including a Single Ascending Dose Study completed by the FDA. 7-OH has zero science to back its use and it has been shown to cause respiratory depression in animal studies.

Please read my attached testimony and consider how a ban will affect hundreds of pain patients like me that live in Fresno. Taking away this lifeline from the most vulnerable will be disastrous.

Thank you.

Lora Romney

[REDACTED]



Virus-free www.avast.com

Lora Romney – Patient Testimony

I am sharing my story with you today so that you can understand the human side of kratom and how your decision will impact the lives of thousands who rely on this botanical. I am a very normal 55-year-old wife, mother, grandma, and conservative voice. At 42 years old I joined the ranks of the chronic pain community with my diagnosis. I feel compelled to explain to you how natural kratom has changed my life and allowed me to function. I also feel it is extremely important to stress that natural kratom is very different from synthetic 7-OH. I know that protecting your citizens is your entire goal. By banning 7-OH you are ensuring that the problem synthetic products are off your shelves. By regulating kratom, you are allowing safe access for those who rely on kratom.

I am a patient with Atypical Trigeminal Neuralgia (ATN). This disease causes severe facial nerve pain that never stops. It presents in my sinus regions on both sides. Imagine an ice cream headache that never goes away. This is what I experience daily. This disease is called “the suicide disease” because it can be one of the most painful conditions to live with.

I have been struggling with ATN for the past 13 years. I have tried everything to control my pain: brain surgery, a nerve stimulator implant in my face, blocks, lidocaine infusions, chiropractic, acupuncture, physical therapy and over 30+ medications to try and decrease this pain. I was referred to a pain clinic after my neurologist exhausted all options for me. Under the care of a pain physician, I was given two oxycodone per day.

This dose of oxycodone was not enough to control my excruciating pain. It gave me relief for approximately 4-5 hours. This meant that for 16 hours of the day and night, I did not have any pain control. I suffered immensely. Since I had tried all available options to control this pain, I began looking at alternative solutions. I heard about the plant kratom that many were using successfully to help control their TN pain. I decided to try it. Amazingly enough, I got instant relief. My pain did not go away, but it moved from an 8-9 to a 2-4 with the use of a low dose of kratom. I still have very bad days where nothing really helps, but the majority of the time, I can function very well. I am an 8-year kratom consumer. Kratom has allowed me to discontinue my daily opioid prescription!

Patients like me need pain control options. I read stories every day of patients who are being forced off their pain medication and given no other options. While taking acetaminophen or ibuprofen for pain control works for some, when people have severe illness and pain, these over-the-counter meds do not help. What is not understood by many lawmakers and physicians is that you cannot survive at constant 8-10 level pain for an extended period of time without snapping. Mentally this amount of pain changes your brain, and suicide becomes a real option. We don't want to die. We want to live! I don't take kratom to get any sort of a high. In fact, the reason I love kratom is that it makes me feel more normal! There is no physical craving for this supplement. The only craving I have is the desire to have my pain drop a few points.

Pain patients are the silent minority in this country. We are the ones who have no voice. We are hidden away in our homes, unable to work, go to lunch, and even drive a car at times. All we are asking for is compassion and access to medication and natural supplements that give us some quality of life. Sometimes I lay awake at night thinking about the real possibility that kratom could become illegal. What would I then do for pain control? That is a thought that haunts me. Opioids are no longer

available to most patients. I could not live at level 9-10 which is what I would be at without pain control. The answer for me was Kratom. I am grateful every day that it is legal and that I have the option to use this supplement.

Just this week I came across this post. It perfectly summarizes the terrifying position that pain patients are being put in by having their access to pain medication taken away. Notice the last two sentences. It says it all.



Please give pain patients a voice! Regulate kratom instead of banning it! Currently the adverse events being reported are most frequently coming from 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) synthetic products and not from pure kratom. 7-OH products SHOULD be banned since they are not kratom. Please do not assume that these products are the same. 7-OH is NOT kratom.

By regulating and not banning kratom, you are showing those that rely on kratom to treat their pain, anxiety and even drug withdrawals with kratom truly matter. You have the power to keep us functioning so we can give back to society and take care of our families. Thank you!

Lora Romney



Before Kratom – Uncontrolled pain, surgeries, procedures (Cephaly device pictured....trying to control the pain)



With Kratom – Controlled pain, living life, being a grandma

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Kratom
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:23:48 PM

Comment for the 12/4/25 Council meeting, item 2-V ID 25-1640.

From: Misty Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 2:59 PM
Subject: RE: Kratom

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

From 2008 to 2019, I lived in the grip of FDA-approved pain pills, benzos, and muscle relaxers prescribed for my degenerative disc disease. For 11 years, chronic pain management fueled my addiction. What started as a dependency slowly slid into a destructive cycle of misuse and despair.

In April 2019, I was dismissed from pain management after failing a required pill count. I was 11 pills short, and my usual drug dealers didn't have the pink oxy 10s I needed. Cut off from prescriptions, I turned to the streets in desperation and eventually slipped into cocaine use while searching for another doctor.

Then, in June 2019, while suffering through cocaine withdrawal, I stumbled upon the documentary A Leaf of Faith. That single moment changed the course of my life. The very next day, I began my journey with whole-leaf Kratom, not synthetic 7OH, by walking into a smoke shop. The Kratom was in a glass case, locked up and I was carded when purchased.

Kratom quieted the relentless cravings, the constant voice whispering, one more pill, one more snort, one more escape. For the first time in over a decade, I felt peace. Kratom gave me the space and clarity to confront the deeper reasons behind my addiction and to rebuild my life from the ground up.

I have not returned to pain management in over six and a half years. Today, I am a thriving mother, a proud first-time grandmother, a functioning member of society, and a tax-paying citizen. Most importantly, I'm no longer a burden to my children. I'm an example of hope and healing.

I will forever be grateful that I found safe, lab-tested, whole-leaf Kratom. Now, I share my story, knowledge, and the science behind it to help others facing addiction, chronic pain, anxiety, and depression.

Yours truly,

Misty Brown

Kratom Consumer, Advocate & Activist est. 2019

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [BULK] New eComment for City Council on 2025-12-04 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 12:41:12 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2025-12-04 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Kimberley Xu submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2025-12-04 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 2.-V. ID 25-1640 ***BILL B-54 (Introduced November 20, 2025)(For Adoption) Adding Chapter 10 of Article 28 of the Fresno Municipal Code, relating to the regulation of the sale and distribution of kratom products within the City limits (Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: I support this law. But I think it should be changed to allow leaf kratom. I don't use Kratom but maybe the leaf wasn't the problem. If you pass this law, that's ok but I am trying to think of all the people who use Kratom leaf and never had a problem.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Fresno City Council 12/4 Meeting Comment
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 10:18:37 AM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello,

I would like to submit the below comment on behalf of the Global Kratom Coalition.

Dear Fresno Mayor and City Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Global Kratom Coalition (GKC), a coalition of consumers, scientific experts, and responsible stakeholders - we submit this comment in support of amending the City Council's proposed ordinance regarding the sale and possession of kratom.

Rather than institute a blanket ban on all kratom products, we urge the Council to adopt an amendment that clearly distinguishes between natural kratom leaf and concentrated synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products and other synthetic derivatives.

Specifically, we ask that the City Council establish a conservative 7-OH content of less than 0.5% of the alkaloid fraction in finished products to differentiate between natural kratom products and the prohibited concentrated synthetic 7-OH products. Additionally, we ask that you institute a 21+ age-gate for the sale of natural kratom products to further ensure children are not accessing these products. '

By adopting this amendment, you protect public health while maintaining regulated access to natural kratom products used by millions of Americans, including 3 million Californians. This approach targets the actual problem: adulterated, lab created, concentrated synthetic products, while allowing consumers access to natural kratom products.

This framework will align the City's ordinance with the federal direction that distinguishes between natural kratom and concentrated, synthetic 7-OH and will complement Fresno County's approach. This will promote consistency across municipalities while prohibiting novel opioids from being accessible.

Consistent with GKC's position, we support prohibiting adulterated, synthetic concentrated 7-OH products and other synthetic derivatives, while preserving adult access to responsibly regulated natural kratom leaf.

We appreciate your leadership and stand ready to assist with technical language and answer any questions you may have regarding this topic.

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Best,
Alli Smith

