



# Prineville Police Department

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07-25-2022

To: Steve Forrester

Re: Impacts of psilocybin mushroom legalization

Fr: Chief of Police, Larry Seymour

Steve and Council,

On just about any topic you can research opposing views and find some kind of study completed by a group to show the opposite of what you believed to be true, as true.

Psilocybin mushrooms are a Schedule I (one) Federally Scheduled drug. Schedule one meaning they serve no legitimate medical purpose and have a high potential for abuse. Psilocybin mushrooms are in the same Federal category of drugs as are Heroin, Ecstasy, and Methamphetamine.

Psilocybin mushrooms effect the body physically through nausea, vomiting, muscular weakness, and lack of coordination. Psilocybin mushrooms effect the brain via hallucinations and causing discern from fantasy to reality. Panic reactions and psychotic-like episodes may occur in higher doses. Psilocybin mushroom overdose effects are longer more intense episodes, psychosis, and possible poisoning and death as they are sometimes misidentified. The effects of Psilocybin mushrooms are similar to those of hallucinogens such as mescaline, and peyote.

Where I can say my experience has led me to professional conclusions about legalizing drugs is best noted in our arrests of impaired drivers. We have 3 Officers trained as Drug Recognition Experts, and they all remain busy conducting drug evaluations from impaired driving arrests. The uptick during marijuana legalization and again with the decriminalization of schedule one drugs like Heroin

and Methamphetamine has caused a noticeable degree in non-alcohol DUII arrests. You can expect those numbers to increase if you allow Psilocybin mushrooms to be legally dispersed in the areas you live.

The second most common attribute of drug legalization is in the amount of calls for service, and length of time spent on the calls we receive by those in a drug psychosis or mental health crisis caused by drug use. Police cannot continue to be relied upon to solve or fix our states population of those in crisis caused by mental health and drug addiction.

Another factor of legalization of a drug that causes psychosis is in the lack of officer safety and higher civil liability it can bring to those in Law Enforcement attempting to conduct investigations or in making an arrest. An abnormally high number of our force generated reports come from those in mental crisis from past drug use, or those currently under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

When marijuana was legalized we saw a large increase in possession cases amongst our youth. Officer Coffman worked the majority of his time in the elementary and middle schools and if asked he would tell you how the legalization of marijuana and other drugs, increased the number of youth caught with those drugs in elementary and middle school aged children. We feel it is simply due to the non-criminal, availability of the product in homes.

Lastly, marijuana and other street drugs that have been decriminalized, and even legalized, aren't packaged and overseen by a medical physician. If something has a tried and true reason to be prescribed, and has a proven medical use, it should be used under the direction of a licensed physician just like any prescription drug dispensed at a pharmacy, not by a citizen who opens a shop and passes a class administered by OLCC. Legalization will commonly bring about more of the substance and make it easier to acquire, and the impacts of it will not only be immediate, but long term as we have already seen over the last few years with other decriminalized drugs.

Measure 110, the legalization of drugs like Heroin, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and RX pills is an admitted fail by the state. In a rush to get Oregon to lead the way in decriminalizing drugs, lawmakers hastily put together laws to get out to the voters. An

example would be how a 16 year old or a 20 year old can be in possession of 10-20 doses of Heroin or Methamphetamine and it's a \$100 fine, but it's much worse for them to be in possession of a drink of alcohol. Also, as many predicted, the state is in possession of millions of dollars set aside for treatment, but nearly all of those being issued non-criminal citations are not seeking treatment as an option.

As the Chief of Police I'm only warning citizens that removing the threat of incarceration or openly legalizing sales and production, and abandoning the collaboration between law enforcement, the judiciary, probation, and the drug court system will continue to result in a revolving door of drug abuse, treatment refusal, crime, crisis with our homelessness, and ongoing costly health related expenditures. There will be a strain on LEO due to hospitalizations due to overdose and death, Police Officer Mental Holds, force used, and drug induced psychosis by those experiencing drug crisis.

I'm giving you this information as my opinion from reviewing reports, listening to officers in the field, and being the Operations Captain for the last 6 plus years, who spent 3.5 years on our tri-county Narcotics task force.

PPD Officers are being asked to do more in the way of solving crime, solving our Mental Health problem, and keeping the streets safe for our families by getting impaired drivers off the road, all the while we are allowing more and more illegal substances to be freely used and dispersed in our state. I feel like the Psilocybin mushroom is another one of those drugs in my professional opinion.

Thanks you for your time in listening to my experience.

Larry Seymour –Chief of Police