



Mayor's Memorandum to City Council

TO: Sandpoint City Council

FROM: Mayor Jeremy Grimm

DATE: April 14, 2026

RE: Proposed Ordinance – Prohibition on the Sale of Kratom Products

Councilmembers,

I am bringing forward the proposed ordinance regarding the sale of kratom in Sandpoint with a clear objective: to address a gap that currently exists between what is being sold in our community and what has been evaluated for safety by state or federal regulators.

Kratom is a substance that has become increasingly available in retail settings—most often in smoke shops and convenience stores. It is commonly marketed as a natural product, sometimes associated with pain relief or mood enhancement. However, despite its growing presence in the marketplace, it has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for any use, and it is not subject to the kind of regulatory framework that governs other substances with similar physiological effects.

What gives me pause—and what I believe warrants your consideration—is the disconnect between how this product is presented to consumers and what we actually know about it. Federal agencies, including the FDA and the CDC, have identified credible risks associated with kratom use, including dependency, adverse health effects, and, in some cases, serious medical outcomes. There have also been documented issues with product contamination and inconsistent composition, which further complicates any assumption of safety.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that some individuals use kratom for reasons they believe are beneficial, including attempts to manage pain or reduce reliance on other substances. This proposal does not dismiss those perspectives. Rather, it reflects a recognition that the City of Sandpoint is not in a position to regulate the safety, purity, or appropriate use of a substance that lacks an established framework at higher levels of government.

The ordinance before you is intentionally limited in scope. It does not criminalize possession or personal use. Instead, it focuses on the commercial sale of kratom within city limits. This approach is aimed at reducing exposure and availability in retail environments, particularly where products may be purchased without meaningful information, safeguards, or consistency.

In considering this action, I have asked a simple question: whether it is appropriate for a substance with known risks and no regulatory oversight to be openly sold in our community. Reasonable people may arrive



at different answers, but I believe it is our responsibility to weigh the available information and act in a way that reflects a prudent approach to public health and safety.

For that reason, I am recommending that the Council adopt the proposed amendment to Title 5 prohibiting the sale of kratom products within the City of Sandpoint.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this matter and welcome your discussion.

Jeremy Grimm

Mayor, City of Sandpoint