



# PRESS RELEASE

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TOMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## For Immediate Release

**Date:** December 20, 2010  
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### Synthetic Marijuana Banned in Tomball

On Tuesday, December 21, 2010, Ordinance No. 2010-24 becomes law – and certain smoking paraphernalia and smoking products become prohibited.

Earlier this summer, the National Drug Intelligence Center issued a report describing the substance abuse and harmful side effects related to the use of synthetic cannabinoid (marijuana-type) products. While there appears to be some momentum within the federal government to possibly ban these products, there has been no state or federal action up to now.

We found that these products were being sold at businesses within our community as incense (“not for human consumption”), but they are actually being marketed to adolescents and young adults as non-detectable alternatives to marijuana. Some of the commercial names are Salvia Divinorum, K-2, Kush, KO Knock Out, Mojo, Pandora Potpourri, and Spice.

These products contain unknown synthetic substances that are addictive and cause impairment and/or hallucinations. In fact, there was a recent incident in which Tomball police officers responded to the aid of a family whose teenager is now in a drug rehabilitation program because of addiction to these products.

Simply stated, these products are a danger to public health, safety, and welfare because of the adverse side effects and therefore it is necessary to ban both their sale and possession.

It is our expectation that local businesses will voluntarily comply with this ordinance, as many of them have already stopped selling these products after being notified that the City was moving toward a ban. However, non-compliance in the form of possession or sale will result in aggressive enforcement measures.

A copy of Ordinance No. 2010-24 can be viewed at  
<http://www.ci.tomball.tx.us/mayor-council/code-ordinance.html>