



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA
COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 7, 2016
TO: Honorable City Attorney Jan Goldsmith
FROM: Councilmember Todd Gloria, Third Council District
SUBJECT: Request for Ordinance Banning Spice

The use of “Spice”, also known as synthetic cannabinoids, has increased dramatically in District Three, particularly in recent months. The Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe Program has recorded 161 Spice incidents in the downtown core from January to March of 2016, a 500% increase over the previous three months. This dangerous, unpredictable and unregulated drug is rampant in the downtown community, putting users’ lives at risk, tying up public safety personnel and disturbing the quality of life in the neighborhood.

I have heard the call to action from the downtown community, and have also seen the devastating effect of Spice firsthand during the annual WeAllCount homeless census, when I witnessed an 18-year old overdose and learned of the frequency to which our first responders are dealing with Spice-related incidents. The effects of Spice include hallucinations, violent and combative behavior, paranoia, stroke and often death.

Selling synthetic cannabinoid compounds like Spice has been illegal in California since 2012, with five specified chemicals banned by the state. However, Spice manufacturers frequently change the drug with new and unknown chemicals and the state legislation has not kept up with banning these compounds.

As such, the City of Oceanside recently passed ambitious legislation prohibiting products containing various psychoactive cannabinoids, cathinones and other synthetic drugs. Similar laws have been passed in Chula Vista, El Cajon, Los Angeles, Barstow, Redlands, Twentynine Palms and Victorville.

I am encouraged by your office’s work to draft an enforceable ordinance to address this issue in the City of San Diego, but I am concerned that this draft is still several months away from completion. I ask that this ordinance be expeditiously brought to the City Council’s Public

Safety & Livable Neighborhood's Committee for consideration and adoption, as our citizens cannot afford to wait.

TG:jl

Attachment: Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe Spice Incidents

cc: Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald, Public Safety & Neighborhood Services
Committee Chair
Honorable Members of the City Council Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods
Committee
Scott Chadwick, Chief Operating Officer
Shelly Zimmerman, Chief of Police
Marshall Anderson, Director of Council Affairs



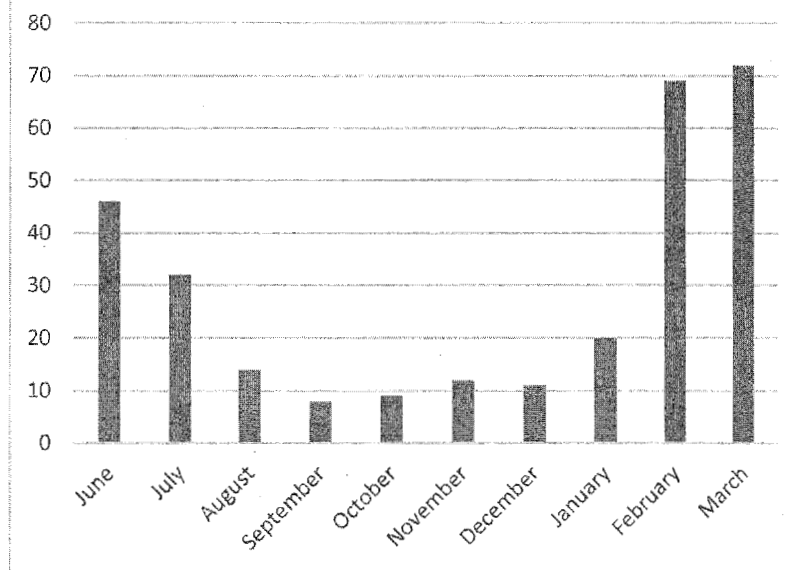
Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe Spice Incidents

June 2015 – March 2016

Spice Incidents - Summary

2015	
June	46
July	32
August	14
September	8
October	9
November	12
December	11
Subtotal	132
2016	
January	20
February	69
March	72
Subtotal	161
TOTAL	293

Spice Incidents



Spice Incidents - Locations

