

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JOHN FITZGERALD, EDWARD FLYNN, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE REGULATION OF KRATOM IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Kratom is a plant-derived substance that contains psychoactive compounds mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, and when consumed, can produce stimulant-like effects at low doses and opioid-like effects at higher doses; *and*

WHEREAS, Kratom is commonly marketed and sold in forms including dried leaf powders capsules, teas, gummies, energy drinks, concentrated extracts, inhalants etc. through retail outlets such as smoke shops, convenience stores, gas stations, specialty herbal shops, and online vendors; *and*

WHEREAS, Since 2016, federal health agencies have cautioned consumers about the health risks associated with consuming kratom, and in July 2025, the FDA recommended a scheduling action to control one of the compounds found in Kratom (7-hydroxymitragynine) under the Controlled Substances Act; *and*

WHEREAS, Many states and local jurisdictions have considered adopting legislation to regulate the sale and distribution of Kratom, including here in Massachusetts (House Bill H.4261); *and*

WHEREAS, Across the city we have heard concerns from residents about the widespread and unregulated use of Kratom; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2015, when residents raised similar concerns about the unregulated use of other psychoactive substances, the City Council adopted CBC 16-59, an Ordinance prohibiting the possession, sale, manufacture, and distribution of synthetic cannabinoids, which are chemically synthesized compounds that bind to cannabinoid receptors. Kratom, which binds to one's opioid receptors is therefore not regulated under the Ordinance as currently written; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss regulating Kratom in the City of Boston. Representatives from the appropriate departments of the administration and other interested parties will be invited. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.

Filed in City Council: January 28, 2026