



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

November 12, 2010

FREDERICK H. BEALEFELD, III
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall
Attn. Karen Randle

FROM: James H. Green, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel
Baltimore Police Department

RE: City Council Bill 10-0616-Prohibited Distribution of K2 or "Spice"

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill 10-0616-Prohibited Distribution of K2 or "Spice". The bill proposes to prohibit the distribution of certain synthetic products or compounds known as K2, "Spice", or otherwise and establishing penalties related to the regulation.

Baltimore County has recently enacted similar legislation and the Council passed a resolution calling for this issue to be addressed statewide by the General Assembly. Other states have also enacted legislation that regulate synthetic cannabinoids. Fortunately, the BPD Crime Lab has not encountered any instances of this type of substance seized in Baltimore City. A survey of surrounding counties shows a minimal number of cases being identified statewide. The BPD Lab is currently in the process of acquiring the software upgrade necessary to expand the spectra library to detect these compounds when these items are presented for analysis. It is important to note that there are number of synthetic cannabinoids that impact the human central nervous system and they too should be reflected in the legislation's definition.

Practical considerations include public education about its use and overall effects. Additionally, law enforcement will also need education and training in detecting these substances for enforcement purposes. We will be happy to attend the hearing to provide any additional information but defer to the Health Department on the use and health effects of these substances. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211

