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AFPD, Law Enforcement team up to get K2 off shelves

K2 Ban passes House Judiciary Committee

Independent retailers will help Wayne County Sheriff enforce SB 1082, expected to pass the House this week

June 5, 2012 — It's legal, lethal and available in gas stations and convenience stores around the country. K2, also known as Spice, has garnered media attention in recent months; the drug is a synthetic substance marketed as an alternative to marijuana. It is behind many incidences of hospitalization and death.

In anticipation of a State Law passing the House to ban K2, Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers (AFPD) and Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon are teaming up to enforce the ban on K2 and are also asking the public to assist in getting it off the streets.

AFPD represents 4,000 independent retailers in Michigan and Ohio and is the main supporter of Senator Dave Hildabrand's SB1082, which would outlaw this product. AFPD has been talking with its members internally for the past six weeks on the dangers of K2 and intends to take bold measures against members who violate the ban when it is approved by the House. The Senate has already passed the measure. It unanimously passed the House Judiciary committee today.

"The AFPD has taken a three-prong approach to getting this product off the streets. We have taken the lead on supporting a ban at the state level as well as supporting all local bans," said Auday Arabo, president and CEO of AFPD. "We have supported this trio of Bills in Lansing as well as supporting efforts in West Bloomfield Twp., Shelby Twp as well as Farmington Hills. At our own association level, we have put out our 800 phone number to assist law enforcement and the public to remove this product from stores." Also, if AFPD members are caught violating the law their membership is automatically revoked.

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Spice is a form of synthetic marijuana that is commonly sold as incense, or potpourri. It was originally sold under the name K2, but legislation banned K2 in Michigan in October 2010. Since the ban, manufacturers are finding ways around the legislation by manufacturing variations of the banned substance, eliminating the chemicals that caused the original K2 to be banned.

“No matter what they do to alter the product, K2 and similar products are still drugs that cause harm to our children and our communities,” said Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon. “Teaming up with the AFPD will bolster our monitoring efforts exponentially so that it doesn’t reach store shelves again.” Anyone who sees K2 or similar products for sell in retail outlets in Wayne County can leave an anonymous tip with the Sheriff at 313.833.3190. The public can call AFPD offices at 800.666.6233. Auday Arabo is available for interviews and may be reached directly at 248.820.6411.

Local Stores Available for Comment:

Hassan Jawad
BP Dearborn
2731 Monroe
Dearborn Michigan
313-995-8777

Frank Dabaja
Business Owner with multiple Wayne
County locations
313-350-4678

Marvin Poota
Wixom BP
31331 Wixom Road
248-624-0900

Kevin Bahnam
USA 2 Go
Shell Gas Station
Novi Michigan
Beck Road near I-96
248.446.8839