

Mr. David Ayres, General Manager
WNZF Radio

Dear Mr. Ayres:

I am personally and professionally affronted by your recent characterization of the Palm Coast City Council as “over-reaching” in its attempts to protect the youth of our community from the ill effects of “synthetic marijuana.” As you well know, these over-the-counter products, sold under such names as “Kool Beenz,” “Mr. Happy,” etc., consist of a small amount of shredded organic plant material (of unknown origin), sprayed with synthetic chemical analogs of the psychoactive components of marijuana. (Analog – a chemical compound that is structurally similar to another but differs slightly in composition, as in the replacement of one atom by an atom of a different element or in the presence of a particular functional group). These packets retail for between \$25 and \$40 apiece.

For you to contend that these products are perfectly legal is to participate in the “wink-wink” charade that they are legal simply because they are marked “not for human consumption,” when, in fact that is exactly the purpose for which they are purchased and sold. (Take note of the frequent juxtaposition of these products and cigarette rolling papers on the retailers’ shelves.)

You went on in your recent “Free-For-All Friday” dialogue with Mr. McMillian to comment that nobody would use these products if they had the undesirable side effects that have been attributed to them. Simply not true! Even you must have heard of college “binge drinking!”

I am proud of the proactive approach that Palm Coast City Council took in banning so-called “pill mills” from our community and I am equally proud of their current efforts to protect our youth from the well-documented unpleasant and often harmful side effects of synthetic marijuana.

The problem that we face is that by continually making slight alterations to the chemical composition of these analogs, manufacturers have been able to stay one step ahead of the government’s ability to regulate them. The approach that Palm Coast is taking is not to attempt to regulate the chemical composition of these products, but instead to regulate their sale and distribution. We anticipate the full and complete cooperation of our local merchants in this endeavor.

Frankly, I am disappointed that WNZF, which has participated in so many programs to help our community, would not be supportive of our efforts.

Respectfully,

Jon Netts