

October 26, 2010

**Honorable Judge Gattis
And Commissioners**

My name is Lucille Turner, a citizen of Williamson County and Cedar Park for 26 years.

The first time I spoke to this court was in June 2002 , none of you were here. The last time I spoke was June 1, 2004. Commissioner Birkman was new to the court and had put on the agenda at my request to freeze the taxes of the seniors and disabled . The court approved it that day.

I still wanted to come today and thank you for your keeping the tax rate the same this year. Even though the rate doesn't affect my taxes, It will help a lot of people including my daughter and her family. Their 14 yr old home did not go down in value it was appraised several thousand dollars higher with no improvements added. It will help them by not having an increased rate this year.

Thank you for the many hours you put in and always remember you work for the taxpayers.

Knowing this court does not make laws, and since I am here today and many people I have spoken with had not heard of the K-2 synthetic marijuana, I have outlined information concerning K-2 a dangerous synthetic marijuana substance that right now is legal to sell. However, you as an individual and citizen of your city could speak to your mayor and city council to be proactive and ban it. According to the paper Senator Florence Shapiro is planning to introduce legislation to regulate the synthetic marijuana during the up coming legislative session in January 2011. Senator Shapiro has asked local jurisdictions to independently ban the substance prior to the passage of a state law. I sent an e-mail to Senator Shapiro and told her that if I am able I would be willing to testify before a committee when it comes up because I have seen the effects of drugs on young people from starting with marijuana and then to cocaine and other drugs. I have spoken with Mayor Cowman and the Mayor pro-tem of Leander, also with Dr. Charles Schwertner candidate for State Representative District 20. Within Texas, the cities of Allen, College Station, Cleburne, Dallas, Frisco, Longview McKinney, and Plano have enacted similar ordinances as Cedar Park on September 23rd passed the ordinance which makes it illegal to use, buy, possess or sell a synthetic marijuana substance such as K-2, Spice and Salvia divinorum which is not the same plant as common cooking sage.. Several States have also banned this substance.

According to the papers I read, K-2 is a brand name for the synthetic hallucinogen which the business markets under the labels as " spice", " salvia", "space,"hush", and "lava", all of which contain the chemical JWH-018. It is being marketed as Botanical Incense" If you will look up on your computer you will find much more information. Its not illegal and not designated as a controlled substance by the government It causes tremors. seizures,

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elevated blood pressure, tachycardia, numbness, tingling, vomiting, panic attacks, agitation and could cause death. According to the paper the emergency rooms of the Seton Medical Center Williamson emergency has seen cases this spring and summer among patients ranging in age from teens to adults in their early -40's. Also their Northwest location now has seen patients from Cedar Park, Leander and Georgetown.

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