From: Maggie Bornstein
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Policing priorities in Missoula — Entheogenic plants
Date: Sunday, April 17, 2022 5:39:38 PM

Dear City Council,

My name is Maggie Bornstein, and I am a Missoula constituent residing in Ward 1. I am writing to encourage you to support the resolution that works towards decriminalizing entheogenic plants in Missoula.

There is increasing scientific research providing strong evidence for the healing properties of entheogenic medicines. For example, entheogens such as psilocybin containing mushrooms, could help to treat depression, anxiety, and substance abuse.

My connection to the last point is my late sister, Rhiannon "Annie DeFranco." She was a mom, friend, harm-reductionist, friend, incredible person, and luckily, my sister. Annie struggled with addiction her entire life until her eventual death is 2017. She sought, yet was not always able to access, treatment, though faced incarceration and the lasting stigma it carries. And in the rising numbers of people lost to the opioid crisis with many lessons learned ahead of us, there is a big gap felt by my family and our community. Annie was a champion of others. You'll see that in the comments attached. And in trying to eternalize her commitment to harm reduction and justice for all, I ask you to support this and all humane drug policy you face in your time on Council.

Rhiannon DeFranco of CAB Health and Recovery Services has received the Moe Armstrong Award for Peer Leadership from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare. The annual award is given to those who have made an exceptional contribution to the development and/or strengthening of the role of consumers in the mental health and/or substance abuse treatment systems. DeFranco is a peer educator with CAB Health and Recovery Services' Street Outreach Program.

Today I got the worst news my friend is gone an I can't believe it I wish it wasn't true. When i was at my worst Annie was there for me. She would make sure i had a place to sleep, wash my clothes an check on me constantly an with her support I got sober. I was lucky enough to have spent a few days with her this week an I am so grateful for that. Annie was a wonderful friend she had a huge heart. She loved her daughters so much an it breaks my heart when I think of what her daughter Zoey an the rest of her family is going through. I love u Rhiannon an I will miss u. I will always carry the memories I have of u in my heart.

Annie, my heart aches for you and your family. You had such a positive impact on my life in 2001. I wish we had the opportunity to get together. You'll always have a special spot in my heart 💜

Shauna Mccabe

Annie helped me more times than i can count and saved me from myself even more than that she was real and great at her job at healthy streets. She truly cared about her clients and unfortunately the disease of addiction has yet claimed another beautiful young life but with annies help i have been clean since 11/4/2014. And will honor her memory by staying clean and sober to me that is what would of meant the most to her and knowing annie she will always be watching over us making sure that her daughters and family and friends are safe my sympathy goes out to her family and to annie spread those wings and fly high babygirl cause im sure your ones of gods angels your fight is over be at peace finally

3y Like Reply 1

I'm literally crushed! You were always such an amazing friend who never gave up on me. My heart is so broken right now. May you rest in the sweetest peace.. I love you my friend! Fly high with the rest of our angels.🖤

Sincerely,
Maggie Bornstein