



September 3rd, 2015

Jim Buckmaster
CEO and Founder
Craigslist
1381 9th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94122

Re: Advertisements for Synthetic K2 Products

Dear Mr. Buckmaster:

We are writing to you to urge your company to remove all advertisements on your website for so-called, "K2 Spice," "herbal incense," products. As you know, over the past several years several state governments and the federal government have been taking action against the threat posed by synthetic cannabinoids. These drugs, also known as synthetic marijuana, are artificial chemicals that mimic many of the effects of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main active ingredient in marijuana, on the human brain. While these drugs may induce feelings similar to those caused by marijuana, they also have extremely negative effects. Health officials have indicated that users are at an elevated risk of heart attacks or a seizures and that these drugs can cause extreme paranoia which can manifest itself into fits of violence, putting members of the public beyond the user in danger.

Law enforcement recently conducted a sting operation on a number of local stores in the New York City area that were found to be selling this dangerous drug. We are also working on legislation to criminalize the sale of these drugs in New York State and punish stores that sell them with heavy fines and the loss of a number of business licenses. This campaign to crack down on businesses that deal in these drugs can't be successful without the support of responsible retailers. The Office of Senator Jeffrey D. Klein recently searched on various Craigslist pages that cover New York State. To our dismay, we found a number of advertisements that came up on the New York City pages if a user searched for "K2 Spice," which are the two most ubiquitous names for this kind of synthetic marijuana product. As of

August 28, 2015, we found five advertisements of concern on the New York City site; with the following post ID's: 5170172488; 5150384502; 5150382774; 5173376161; 5170210786.

The company posting these advertisements on your website proclaims the legality of their products, but a simple examination of the ads and the products they are selling quickly reveals the problematic nature of the product. The product is advertised as "100% legal k2 herbal incense spice," but it's already known that K2 and Spice are the most common names for the dried mix of plants that is then sprayed with dangerous synthetic chemicals and sold for smoking. The advertisement includes no information on the actual contents of the brightly colored packages, leaving a customer with no idea of what "herbal products" are included. This would be a problem for anyone seeking actual herbal incense, but not for someone looking for synthetic marijuana. Several of the ads include the pictures of Scooby Doo, a character copyrighted by the company Hanna Barbera, a subsidiary of Universal Pictures, clearly without consent. The company posting is called legalexoticweeds.com; "weed" being an obvious reference to marijuana.

In its company's terms of use Craigslist retains the right to moderate the contents of your site, particularly if someone posts advertisements for: controlled substances and related items; adulterated food or cosmetics; any good, service, or content that violates the law or legal rights of others. We believe that advertisements such as the ones found violate your terms of use, and that Craigslist should not only take down any such advertisements across the board, but should remove similar ads for products advertised using the term "K2 Spice." In addition, we urge Craigslist's site to moderate any advertisements for so called "herbal incense." Unfortunately, dealers of synthetic marijuana are now using this term just as dealers for synthetic cathinones once used the term "bath salts" to hide their illegal activities.

In conclusion, we urge you to take immediate steps to remove these questionable and dangerous postings from your website and to take all steps necessary to prevent such advertisements from being posted on Craigslist in the future. We appreciate your response to this inquiry at your earliest convenience and we thank you for your consideration.



Senator Jeffrey D. Klein
Independent Democratic Conference Leader
Senate Coalition Leader



Melissa Mark-Viverito
Speaker
New York City Council



Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj
NY S Assembly District 80



Councilman Ritchie Torres
New York City Council District 15



Councilman Ruben Wills
New York City Council District 28



Councilman Daniel Garodnick
New York City Council District 4