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KHALIF J. RAINEY
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

‘Legal Lean’ – like synthetic pot – now illegal in City of Milwaukee

**Statement of Alderman Khalif J. Rainey
December 8, 2017**

A city news event hosted yesterday outlined the next steps in the city’s legal proceedings involving the former Foodtown Mini Mart on Hopkins St., located in the 7th Aldermanic District. The city took ownership of the location after shutting down the store as a public nuisance for selling a potentially deadly form of synthetic marijuana called K-2.

A similar synthetic drug scourge on city neighborhoods – a mood-enhancing, over-the-counter drink sometimes called “Legal Lean” that is targeted toward kids – is now illegal after legislation I sponsored was approved by the Common Council in June. These synthetic drugs prey on our youth and send them on a downward spiral of a life consumed by drug addiction.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, two substances commonly used in Legal Lean are kratom, also known as herbal speedball (it provides an opioid-like effect), and kava, also known as an intoxicating pepper (it provides users a feeling of sedation and muscle weakness).

My legislation (Council File #170238) makes it illegal to use, possess or sell those two herbal depressants in the City of Milwaukee. Our city is now following other large cities and nations in seeking to prevent products like Legal Lean from reaching kids. In fact, these herbs are considered controlled substances in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

I am pleased Legal Lean is now banned in Milwaukee and I urge anyone seeing it sold illegally to report it immediately to Milwaukee Police.

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