

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, WASHINGTON RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF
THE SALE, ADVERTISEMENT, AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM PRODUCTS AND CREATING A NEW
CHAPTER 6.12 OF THE ARLINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Arlington (“City”) is a non-charter optional municipal code city incorporated RCW Title 35A and as such has the power to enact ordinances for the protection of the public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XI, Section 11 of the Washington Constitution, the City is authorized to “make and enforce within its limits all such local police, sanitary, and other regulations as are not in conflict with general laws,” which includes regulations necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, kratom is a psychoactive substance made from the leaves of the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has listed kratom as a “Drug of Chemical Concern,” finding that kratom consumption can produce both stimulant and opioid-like effects and can lead to dependence, addiction, and negative psychotic and physical effects; and

WHEREAS, cases of kratom-related toxicity and adverse effects have been reported, particularly when combined with other substances; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) has determined that 7-hydroxymitragynine (“7-OH”), a naturally occurring alkaloid in the kratom plant, is a dangerous substance; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has not approved any prescription or over-the-counter drug products containing kratom or its two main alkaloids, mitragynine and 7-OH; and

WHEREAS, while the FDA has been evaluating classifying kratom and the alkaloids it contains under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. ch. 13 § 801 et seq.) since July 2025, kratom is not federally regulated in the United States and is not subject to government-mandated safety checks, resulting in a lack of oversight and accepted safety standards for use, regulation of ingredients, purity levels, and dosage; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 69.50.611, Washington cities may enact only those laws and ordinances relating to controlled substances that are consistent with the Washington State Controlled Substances Act, and local laws and ordinances that are inconsistent with the requirements of state law shall not be enacted, are preempted, and should be repealed; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has not enacted any laws or regulations governing the sale, advertisement of, distribution or use of kratom or its derivatives; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the public health and safety is a paramount priority for the City; and

WHEREAS, kratom and kratom derivative products sold at various retail locations in Arlington pose a risk to the City's residents, particularly to youth and vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting the sale, advertisement, and distribution of products containing kratom or kratom derivatives will likely help reduce the risk of accidental overdose, substance misuse, and long-term health impacts, and protects the public health, safety, and welfare of residents of Arlington; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare, the City Council desires to adopt a new Arlington Municipal Code Chapter 6.12 to regulate the sale, advertisement, and distribution of kratom products to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents of Arlington.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Arlington does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1. A new Arlington Municipal Code Chapter 6.12, entitled "Prohibition of Sale, Advertisement, and Distribution of Kratom Products" shall be and hereby is adopted as follows:

6.12.010 - Purpose and Intent.

The purpose and intent of this chapter is to protect the public health and safety of city residents by prohibiting the sale, advertisement, and distribution of kratom products.

6.12.020 - Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings set forth in this section:

(1) "Advertise" means any communication to one or more persons identifying that kratom products are being offered or sold by any person, cooperative, organization, or legal entity, including but not limited to: physical displays of kratom products; signs located at a business; signs located in places other than at a business, including billboards; advertisements on vehicles; advertisements in paper media such as newspapers, magazines, flyers, cards, or business cards; or advertisements in electronic media such as internet websites, social media, electronic classified advertisements, cell phone applications, and television or radio advertisements.

(2) "Distribute" means to furnish, give away, exchange, transfer, deliver, or supply, whether or not for monetary gain.

(3) "Kratom" or "kratom product" means any kratom analogue, food product, food ingredient, dietary ingredient, dietary supplement, or beverage that contains any part of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa* and its leaves, or any derivative that contains any part of the leaf of the plant, or any extract, synthetic alkaloid, or synthetically derived compounds of such plant or its leaf containing mitragynine or 7-hydroxymitragynine ("7-OH"), including, but not limited to, any powder, capsule, pill, beverage, or other ingestible form.

(4) "Kratom retailer" means any person that sells or distributes kratom products or that advertises, represents, or holds itself out as selling or maintaining kratom products.

(5) "Sell" or "sale" means to furnish, exchange, transfer, deliver, or supply for monetary gain.

6.12.030 - Sale, Advertisement, and Distribution of Kratom Products Prohibited.

No person, cooperative, organization, or legal entity may knowingly sell, distribute, advertise for sale or distribution, or permit to be sold, any kratom product in the City of Arlington.

6.12.040 - Violation - Penalty.

(1) Any person, cooperative, organization, or legal entity who violates AMC 6.12.030 shall be issued a class 1 civil infraction under RCW 7.80 with a fine of \$250. Each separate sale, advertisement, or distribution of kratom is considered an independent violation subject to the penalties listed herein. In the case of a single violation occurring over a period of multiple days, each 24-hour period the violation is committed, continued, or permitted shall be a separate and distinct violation subject to the penalties herein.

(2) Any kratom retailer found to have violated AMC 6.12.030 may have its City of Arlington business license revoked or denied pursuant to AMC 5.28.170.

Section 2. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this ordinance be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or pre-emption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 3. Effective Date. The title of this ordinance which summarizes the contents shall be published in the official newspaper of the City. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force on November 18, 2026.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Arlington and APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF ARLINGTON

Don Vanney, Mayor

ATTEST:

Raelynn Jones, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Oskar E. Rey, City Attorney