-----Original Message-----
From:
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 6:49 PM
To: CLK-CityClerks <CityClerks@winnipeg.ca>
Subject: Winnipeg.ca : Submit communications to Council / Register in delegation

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Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 6:48:37 PM

Personal information
Full name: Janis Gillam
Email address:
Phone:
Job title: Retired Insurance Broker
Organization: Overdose Awareness Manitoba and Moms Stop The Harm
Address:
City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:
Delegation information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): Request for an Exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: N/A
Comments in writing: Today I am asking for you to do the right thing and vote yes to decimalize simple drug possession for the health and safety of those who use drugs. Decriminalization of simple possession is long overdue.

In 2016, Canada rightfully declared that drug use is a matter of public health rather than criminal justice, but that declaration is ineffective if drug possession continues to be criminalized. Decriminalization can help people who use drugs to connect to harm reduction and treatment services, along with other social services such as housing without fearing criminal charges or discrimination.

Many people fear that decriminalizing drugs would lead to more drug dependency and crime. There is no indication that this is true. In fact it has been documented that treating problematic drug use as a health issue, instead of a criminal one, is a more successful for keeping communities healthy and safe.

The harms of criminalization follow people for the rest of their lives . criminal records limit employment and housing opportunities, affect child custody, and restrict travel, among other repercussions. People who get their drugs confiscated, who are addicted to drugs, need to go out and find more drugs which

could lead them to having to make a desperate purchase from a dealer or a source that's unknown to them and put them at higher risk. Manitobans are dying from a preventable disease at an alarming rate . from a tainted drug supply. The increase in overdoses has largely been caused by a range of toxic substances found within the street drug supply.

This cannot be ignored any longer, 372 Manitobans died from accidental overdoses in 2020 . 407 Manitobans in 2021 . 2 of those who died in 2020 were my children.

Once again I ask that you do the right thing . and vote yes today. We all have the right to respect, safety, access to healthcare and social services-and to a better life, free from judgment and discrimination

Thank you.