



# Psilocybin Mushroom Policy Review Panel

## 2021 Comprehensive Report

Presented to:

*The City and County of Denver  
Denver City Council  
Finance & Governance Committee*

*November 9, 2021  
Denver, CO*







# AGENDA

- **What We've Learned Since May 2019**
- **Multi Responder Training**
- **Arrests, Safety, & Psilocybin Use**
- **Our Recommendations**
- **Conclusion & Next Steps**





## WHAT WE LEARNED

- **Psilocybin mushrooms have been used by human cultures for millennia and are considered the safest of all recreational drugs**
- **Nearly 20 years of modern clinical research demonstrates psilocybin's efficacy for mental & behavioral health therapy**
- **Denver catalyzed and helped inspire a nationwide movement**







# MULTI RESPONDER TRAINING

- Training for first responders focused on effective approaches to deescalate psilocybin-induced crises
- The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) has been working with Denver first responder departments since September 2020
- Without appropriate support or education, psilocybin use can result in psychological or behavioral crisis
- Wrongful death lawsuits from emergency response in the US have an average settlement of \$2.28 million







# MULTI RESPONDER TRAINING

- The goal of the training is to enhance first responders' knowledge and skills to identify and respond to crisis incidents involving psilocybin and other psychedelics
- The training is being developed with and for law enforcement, EMS, and mental health co-responders
- MAPS, in close collaboration with city first responder department leads, has committed considerable resources to curriculum development
- As of November 2021 training and development is proceeding into the pilot phase pending contract finalization with the city







## ARRESTS, SAFETY, & USE

- Arrests for psilocybin are down by approximately 50%, and a majority of arrests (89%) involving psilocybin include other illicit substances
- Psilocybin accounts for <1% drug felonies and misdemeanors in Denver
- There is no data from Denver hospitals for emergencies related to psilocybin
- Observational data suggests psilocybin is mostly used intentionally for health and mental wellness reasons.







# OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Train City and County of Denver first responders to appropriately respond to persons undergoing psychedelic crisis**
- **Produce co-branded educational public service announcements**
- **Create a data collection and reporting system for any law enforcement and emergency interactions involving psilocybin**







# OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Include gifting & sharing and communal use of psilocybin mushrooms among the lowest law enforcement priority**
- **Expand the voting members of the Denver Psilocybin Mushroom Policy Review Panel to be more reflective of Denver's diversity**
- **Determine how psilocybin therapy can be applied to address mental health issues in Denver**







# CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

- **Colorado is the 47th worst-ranked state in the US for mental health, Denver is no exception**
- **Denver has an opportunity to create new policies that reduce harm, enable self-governance, and create access to more effective healing options.**
- **We'll be working with the city to finalize the multi responder training and consider a new resolution that incorporates this panel's recommendations.**







**Psilocybin Mushroom  
Policy Review Panel**

*Thank you*