

**GULF BREEZE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

DECEMBER 19, 2011
MONDAY, 6:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2011 (Regular Meeting)
Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2011 (Special CRA Meeting)

Presentation of the First Annual Christmas Decoration Awards
4. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:***
 - A. Discussion and Action Regarding Update - Community Center Construction
 - B. Discussion and Action Regarding Special Event Request - Pensacola Sports Association - Double Bridge Run, Saturday, February 4, 2012 - 7:00 a.m.
 - C. Discussion and Action Regarding Special Event Request - Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church Annual 5K Run, Saturday, February 25, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
 - D. Discussion and Action Regarding South Santa Rosa Utility System Recommendations
 - I. Bayside Dynamo Futbol Club Request
 - II. Sound Forest Lift Station Rehabilitation
 - III. WWTF Treatment Basin Rehabilitation
 - IV. Mandavilla Force Main Valves
 - E. Discussion and Action Regarding Water Main Upgrades - Montrose and Navy Cove Boulevard
 - F. Discussion and Action Regarding Installation of Sculpture, Wayside Park East
 - G. Discussion Regarding Replacement of Pensacola Bay Bridge

***These are items considered routine in nature and will be considered by one motion. If any citizen wishes to voice an opinion on one of the items, you should advise the Council immediately.**

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS:

- G. Discussion and Action Regarding (1) Award of Design of Compressed Natural Gas Station FEMA Alternative Project #13 and (2) Lease Extension for Chamber of Commerce Building and Property
- 5. New Business
- 6. Open Forum
- 7. Adjournment

If any person decides to appeal any decisions made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or public hearing, such person may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and any evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

The public is invited to comment on matters before the City Council upon seeking and receiving the recognition from the Chair.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA**

The 1,189th regular meeting of the Gulf Breeze City Council, Gulf Breeze, Florida was held at the Gulf Breeze City Hall on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

Upon call of the roll the following Councilmen were present: Dana Morris, J. B. Schluter, David G. Landfair, Joseph Henderson and Mayor Zimmern.

GULF BREEZE OPTIMIST YOUTH APPRECIATION:

The Gulf Breeze Optimist Youth Appreciation program is an activity which honors students in middle school who exhibit leadership qualities. The students are rewarded by being assigned to an honorary position in the City government and conduct a City Council meeting, with support from the Council members.

The following students participated in the Council meeting by representing various official positions: Megan Pewitt, Mayor; Aleah Gilbert, Councilman Morris, Julia Morse, Councilman Schluter; Madison DeMotts, Councilman Landfair; Alanna Zambetti, Councilman Henderson; Corey Nolan, City Attorney; Ashley Cecil, City Clerk; Kaitlyn Prezioso, City Manager; Marley Taylor, Assistant City Manager; Brandon Bell, Police Chief; Madison Allmon, Public Service Director; Frances Williams, Community Service Director; Marina Pattison, Finance Director; Olivia Zokan, Parks and Recreation Director; and Natalie Tobin, Fire Chief. The alternates were Jordan Renfroe and Zac Green. School Representative Ms. Annette Nixon and Principal Richard Cobb also attended the meeting.

**PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION: PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS
ASSOCIATION HONOR FLIGHT**

City Attorney Corey Nolan read the proclamation honoring the following seven Pearl Harbor survivors who will be participating in the Pearl Harbor Honor Flight to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to observe the 70th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and say "One Last Goodbye" to fallen comrades: Cass Phillips, USN; Bill Braddock, USMC; Francis Emond, USN; George Mills, USN; Jim Carraway, USN; Jacob Gallawa, USN and Jim Landis, USN.

MAYOR'S WELCOME TO COUNCIL PARTICIPANTS:

Mayor Zimmern welcomed everyone and explained that each year the City hosts the student leaders from the 8th grade at Gulf Breeze Middle School to run the meeting in the Council's place, with Council's assistance, taking on the various roles in City government.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NOVEMBER 21, 2011 (REGULAR MEETING) AND
NOVEMBER 29, 2011 (SPECIAL MEETING):**

Councilman Morris moved for approval of the minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, November 21, 2011 and special meeting held on Wednesday, November 29, 2011. Councilman Schluter seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS:

**A. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING ADDITIONAL
PAVING AT THE RECREATION CENTER**

Reference: Assistant Public Services Director memo dated November 22, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize Rebol-Battle to complete the design and permitting of additional paving on the Recreation Center Property for a fee of \$4,500 excluding direct expenses.

Councilman Morris moved for approval. Councilman Landfair seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

**B. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SOUTH SUNSET
BOULEVARD PAVING PROJECT**

Reference: Assistant Public Services Director memo dated November 22, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council accept the following program schedule for repaving South Sunset Boulevard and authorize staff to proceed: (1) December 10, 2011 - final plans for City approval; (2) December 27, 2011 - first advertisement; (3) January 3, 2012 - second advertisement; (4) January 17, 2012 - Pre-bid meeting; (5) January 26, 2012 - bid date; (6) February 6, 2012 - City Council approval; (7) February 20, 2012 - Notice to Proceed; (8) March 2, 2012 - commencement; (9) substantial completion.

Councilman Morris moved for approval. Councilman Landfair seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

C. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING INCREASE IN COST OF WATER

Reference: City Manager memo dated November 23, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the city Council direct staff to amend rate increases for the January 3, 2012 Council Hearing that include a pass through of the \$.05 increase of water.

Councilman Henderson moved for approval. Councilman Morris seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

D. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING RED LIGHT CAMERA PROGRAM - JOB ENRICHMENT

Reference: City Manager memo dated November 17, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize a payment of \$4,120 from the Red Light Camera proceeds reflecting added work accomplished by some individuals without compensation.

Councilman Morris moved for approval. Councilman Henderson seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

E. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING FIREWORKS

Reference: City Manager memo dated November 23, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council hold an anniversary celebration with fireworks every five years.

Councilman Schluter moved for approval. Councilman Henderson seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

F. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF PENSACOLA BAY BRIDGE

Reference: City Manager memo

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council direct staff to draft a letter to Mr. James Barfield, FDOT District Three Secretary, regarding the City's concerns that the new Pensacola Bay Bridge may become a toll bridge.

Councilman Morris moved for approval. Councilman Henderson seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

G. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PAYMENT OF DUES, REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

Reference: City Manager memo dated November 30, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve payment of \$398 for membership in the Regional Utility Authority.

Councilman Morris moved for approval. Councilman Henderson seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

H. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PAYMENT OF DUES, BAY AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL

Reference: City Manager memo dated November 30, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve payment of \$1,500 for membership on the Bay Area Resource Council.

Councilman Henderson moved for approval. Councilman Landfair seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

OPEN FORUM:

The Fire Chief gave an update of the recent fires occurring in our area. He also informed everyone that Santa would ride around Gulf Breeze on a Fire Truck on Thursday, December 15th. Rain date will be Tuesday, December 20th.

Everyone was reminded that awards will be given at the Monday, December 19th regular Council meeting to several homes within the City with the best Christmas decorations.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

A meeting of the Board of Directors for the Community Redevelopment Agency, Gulf Breeze, Florida, was convened at the Gulf Breeze City Hall on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 6:54 p.m.

Upon call of the roll for the Community Redevelopment Agency the following members were present: Dana Morris, Mayor Pro Tem J. B. Schluter, David G. Landfair, Joseph Henderson and Mayor Beverly Zimmern..

The purpose of the meeting was for the Board of directors for the Community Redevelopment Agency to consider the following item:

- A. **SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF
A PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK AT DANIEL DRIVE NEAR ST.
ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Reference: Assistant City Manager memo dated November 5, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve \$3,500 for the construction of a crosswalk on Daniel Drive near the south driveway of St. Ann Catholic Church.

Councilman Morris moved for approval. Councilman Schluter seconded. The vote for approval was 5 - 0.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

Councilmen Present: Dana Morris, Mayor Pro Tem J. B. Schluter, Joseph Henderson,
David G. Landfair, and Mayor Beverly Zimmern

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS:

A. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DECORATION AWARDS

Reference: City Manager memo dated December 8, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

No Council action necessary. The Beautification Committee will present the awards at the regular City Council meeting to be held on Monday, December 19, 2011.

B. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING UPDATE - COMMUNITY CENTER CONSTRUCTION

Reference: City Manager memo dated December 8, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

No Council action necessary. Mr. Jernigan with Bay Design will be present at the regular City Council meeting to be held on Monday, December 19, 2011, to answer questions.

C. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST - PENSACOLA SPORTS ASSOCIATION - DOUBLE BRIDGE RUN, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012, 7:00 A.M.

Reference: Deputy Police Chief memo dated December 7, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the Double Bridge Run scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2012, beginning at 7:00 a.m.

D. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST - GULF BREEZE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL 5K RUN, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012, 8:00 A.M.

Reference: Deputy Police Chief memo dated December 7, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church 5K run to be held Saturday, February 25, 2012, 8:00 a.m.

E. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SOUTH SANTA ROSA UTILITY SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Reference: Assistant Public Services Director memo dated December 6, 2011

I. BAYSIDE DYNAMO FUTBOL CLUB REQUEST

RECOMMENDATION:

The SSRUS Board recommend to City Council that an agreement be pursued with Bayside Dynamo Futbol Club to allow the use of ERS 2 as a tournament facility, pending negotiation of terms and conditions and legal review.

II. SOUTH FOREST LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

RECOMMENDATION:

The SSRUS Board recommends that the City Council approve Warrington Utility & Excavating to rebuild South Forest Lift Station for \$42,000.

III. WWTF TREATMENT BASIN REHABILITATION

RECOMMENDATION:

The SSRUS Board recommends to City Council award to South Basin Rehabilitation project to CAPE Construction for \$391,000 with \$28,000 being released from the impact reserve fund to supplement the \$363,000 allocated in the F/Y 2012 budget.

IV. MANDAVILLA FORCE MAIN VALVES

RECOMMENDATION:

The SSRUS Board recommends to City Council award the Mandavilla Force Main Check Valve and Gate Valve installation to Warrington Utility & Excavating for \$5,300.

F. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING WATER MAIN UPGRADES - MONTROSE AND NAVY COVE BOULEVARD

Reference: Assistant Public Services Director memo dated December 8, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize Hatch Mott McDonald to proceed with the design of the Water Main Improvements for Montrose and Navy Cove Boulevards for a total fee of \$26,426.

G. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING (1) AWARD OF DESIGN OF COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS STATION, FEMA ALTERNATIVE PROJECT #13 AND (2) LEASE EXTENSION FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING AND PROPERTY

Reference: Public Services Director memo dated December 7, 2011

FIRST RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize staff to proceed with negotiating with Zeit Energy to design/procure final cost of the Compressed Natural Gas Facility, FEMA Alternative Project #13, for subsequent approval by the City Council for Award of Construction.

SECOND RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize staff to investigate the potential for a lease extension with the School Board beyond 2020 for the Chamber of Commerce property, parcel #04-3S-29-0000-00501-0000.

H. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING INSTALLATION OF SCULPTURE, WAYSIDE PARK EAST

Reference: City Manager memo dated December 8, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize staff to engage Hewes Construction to build the foundation for a permanent outdoor sculpture in Wayside Park east and direct staff to complete the electrical work in house.

I. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF PENSACOLA BAY BRIDGE

Reference: City Manager memo dated December 7, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

Provided for information only. No Council action required.



City of Gulf Breeze

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council

From:  Edwin A. Eddy, City Manager

Date: 12/16/2011

Subject: First Annual Holiday Decoration Awards

Attached is the list of nominees and winners in the first annual decoration awards as selected by the Beautification Committee. The award winners and the committee should be in attendance on Monday.

HOLIDAY DECORATION NOMINATION LIST			
ST. NO.	ADDRESS	NAME	
1	580	BAY CLIFFS CIRCLE	RUBEN TIMMONS
2	592	BAY CLIFFS CIR	JOHN & ANNETTE BRAY
3	613	BAY CLIFFS RD	GREGORY COOK
4	201	BEAR DR	NEAL & JILL SMITH
5	85	CHANTECLAIRE CIR	MICHAEL & JO-ANN PRICE
6	129	CHANTECLAIRE CIR	FLACK & KATHLEEN LOGAN
7	93	CHANTECLAIRE CIR	FABRIZIO & JANET CUTRONE
8	111	CHANTECLAIRE CIR	MARCUS & KARLA SCHMITZ
9	115	CHANTECLAIRE CIR	HARRISON & JILL WILDER
10	108	FAIRPOINT DR	SAMUEL BAILEY
11	251	FAIRPOINT DR	ROBERT & IRIE VANCE
12	6	FAIRPOINT PL	TRIPP & SUSAN HILL
13	33	HIGHPOINT DR	DAVID HAMOND
14	92	HIGHPOINT DR	JANE & ROBERT SWITZER
15	145	HIGHPOINT DR	JAMES & SUE MARTIN
16	485	JAMES RIVER RD	HUBERT & KRISTIE ELLIS
17	350	JAMES RIVER RD	KEVIN & JILL SWARTZ
18	335	JAMES RIVER RD	CLARK & CYNTHIA POLLITT
19	345	JAMES RIVER RD	PAUL & SHERIE SNIDER
20	375	JAMES RIVER RD	JAMES & JANE HIZER
21	495	JAMES RIVER RD	DAVID CLEVELAND
22	150	MIDDLE PLANTATION LN	JOSEPH & TONYA GOODROE
23	170	MIDDLE PLANTATION LN	KENNETH & BRAXTON ELLZEY
24	190	MIDDLE PLANTATION LN	CHARLES & LEE FARMER
25	407	NAVY COVE BLVD	CHARLES & FRANCES SWITZER
26	224	NORTHCLIFFE DR	BEN & ROBIN RENFROE
27	601	PLANTATION HILL RD	KEVIN & JULIE GRACE
28	310	PLANTATION HILL RD	GEORGE & MARY STEPHENSON
29	286	PLANTATION HILL RD	KRISTINA RENFROE
30	305	PLANTATION HILL RD	JOSEPH & KATHLEEN RYAN
31	1321	SOUNDVIEW TR	ERIC & PAULA EIDSON
32	1411	SOUNDVIEW TR	JAMES & CYNTHIA VICK
33	103	SOUTH SUNSET BLVD	STUART & SANDRA SLATTERY
34	116	SOUTH SUNSET BLVD	HERMAN BRANDON
35	702	STONEWALL DRIVE	CHRISTOPHER & TAMMY SCHULTE
36	1249	TALL PINE CIR	ROBERT G & MARY W WILSON
37	1127	TALL PINE TR	WILLIAM & CARLA CUILIK

WINNERS		
<i>Phone</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Names</i>
850-934-3795	111 CHANTECLAIRE CIR	MARCUS & KARLA SCHMITZ
850-477-1426	6 FAIRPOINT PL	TRIPP & SUSAN HILL
850-932-8521	485 JAMES RIVER RD	HUBERT & KRISTIE ELLIS
850-934-8601	224 NORTHCLIFFE DR	BEN & ROBIN RENFROE
850-932-7407	305 PLANTATION HILL RD	JOSEPH & KATHLEEN RYAN
850-554-6888	702 STONEWALL DRIVE	CHRISTOPHER & TAMMY SCHULTE



City of Gulf Breeze

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

December 16, 2011

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM:  Edwin A. Eddy, City Manager

SUBJ: ATTACHED EXCERPT FROM GULF BREEZE NEWS

Attached is an article from this week's edition of the Gulf Breeze News. We thought it would be helpful to you regarding the synthetic intoxicant issue we discussed at the Executive Session.

DOCS SAY USE SENSE, NOT 'INCENSE'

2011-12-15 / Front Page

Dangerous designer drugs available in Gulf Breeze

BY SCOTT PAGE Gulf Breeze News scott@gulfbreezenews.com



These packages of synthetic materials sold under the guise of 'incense' and a smoking pipe were easily purchased recently at the Reddy's Food Mart convenience store at 220 Gulf Breeze Parkway, where a clerk told a Gulf Breeze News reporter the substances were "for smoking." Packets cost between \$7 and \$20, and the pipe cost \$12. Gulf Breeze News visited a number of other convenience stores in the Gulf Breeze area and found two others that sold these 'incense' products. Several store owners refuse to carry them because of health concerns. Most materials are packaged in brightly colored bags with names like "Good Times," "Go Green" and "Scooby Snax," a name that is concerning for its potential appeal to children. Scott Page/Gulf Breeze News Gulf Breeze teens and young adults are readily able to obtain synthetic drugs that mimic the effects of marijuana and cocaine, despite their links to deaths and recent state and federal legislation to ban the dangerous substances they contain.

Dr. Nicole Barrineau presented a drug awareness program at Gulf Breeze High School last Friday, warning students of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Barrineau dedicated much of the hour-long presentation on the newly popular synthetic drugs "bath salts" and "spice."

"Bath salts" – which contain the stimulants mephedrone and methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) – create an ecstasy (MDMA)- or cocaine-like high in users when snorted, injected or smoked. They are known by a variety of names, including "Blue Silk," "Ivory Wave," and "Aura."

Medical professionals say bath salts can cause hallucinations, paranoia, rapid heart rates and even suicidal thoughts. One local emergency room doctor, Rayme Edler, has witnessed these frightening effects firsthand right here in Gulf Breeze and Pensacola.

"The behavior is very alarming. It ranges from panic, psychotic breaks, crying and hallucinations," Edler described. "These drugs are very powerful. The hallucinations and other effects sometimes last for days, as opposed to hours."

"Many times we have to restrain the patients so they don't hurt themselves, given the potential these drugs have to cause people to harm or even kill themselves. It's very scary, because if someone is having a continuous psychotic spell for days, eventually it wears them down mentally. If there is a voice in their head telling them to kill themselves, they just might do it."

Florida Gov. Rick Scott earlier this year signed into law a measure banning products sold as "bath salts." Those convicted of possessing the drug can face up to five years in prison, but that hasn't made bath salts unobtainable.

Different varieties of these products, often listed as "mood enhancers" and "novelty items," can be purchased online.

"Bath salts" can contain unknown levels of unknown chemicals and are believed to be 10- to 20-times stronger than drugs like methamphetamine and cocaine, which are both considered "hard drugs."

"One of my most shocking cases was a man who was a meth addict who came into the ER after using bath salts," Edler said. "He admitted to using meth regularly, and after one use of bath salts he brought himself in for medical attention. He reported that he never felt anything like it before."

But bath salts are not the only worry, as there is another synthetic drug that can be purchased right here in Gulf Breeze.

"Spice," or synthetic marijuana, is a blend of different herbs that has been treated with a chemical that produces a marijuana-like high. Spice products are marketed as potpourri or incense and "not for human consumption" on the packaging, and for good reason. The package discloses the chemicals that are *not* contained within its contents but does not list what the product *is* laced with.

"You have no idea what chemicals and how much are in your pack. It varies from one to another," Barrineau said. "You could smoke this once or twice and be fine, but on the third time end up in the emergency room."

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration earlier this year made five of the "synthetic THC" designer drugs illegal, including: JWH-018, JWH- 073, JWH-200, CP-47,497 and cannabicyclohexanol.

Creating a new version of these drugs, according to Barrineau, is simple for producers, which makes it difficult for the DEA to keep up with regulation.

"All you have to do is alter one or two molecules in these compounds to create a new substance that hasn't been banned," she said.

As a result, convenient stores and novelty shops continue selling these dangerous products, which can cause extreme anxiety, dangerously high heart rate, delusions, paranoia and seizures and have even been reported to have caused deaths.

"For people who went to the emergency room after using spice, 50 percent of them had to be Baker-acted or placed in the intensive care unit for a number of medical reasons," both Barrineau and Edler agreed.

Even more alarming is the lack of any medical treatment to combat these effects.

"The worst part is there is nothing we can do to reverse the health effects of using these drugs," Edler said. "All we can do is monitor vitals and wait for the drugs to wear off on their own, sometimes for days."

"As of now, there is just not enough medical knowledge available about these substances, and a lot of times, there's no way of even knowing what substances you've consumed in these products."

These health risks were the motivation for the middle and high schools to take a proactive approach to educate students with the awareness programs.

"Kids are curious, and they're going to experiment with alcohol and drugs," Barrineau said. "We want to educate them about what is happening to kids who use spice and other drugs."

The Santa Rosa County School District has taken a hard stand against these synthetic drugs, enforcing a zero tolerance policy. Any student caught under the influence or selling the drugs can be removed from school.

The U.S. government is aware of the problem and is taking steps to remove all of these products from shelves.

The House of Representatives on Dec. 8 passed the Synthetic Drug Control Act by an overwhelming vote of 317-98. The new bill would add more than 30 similar synthetic drugs that mimic the effects of marijuana and cocaine to Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, making them illegal to manufacture or dispense. It has now moved to the U.S. Senate for approval.

As with anything that poses a serious health risk, it ultimately comes down to individuals making responsible decisions, Edler said.

"Every time someone comes in with serious health effects from using these products, after they calm down and we feel comfortable letting them leave the ER, I tell them all the same thing: 'Never, ever ingest anything that specifically says not for human consumption.'"