

January 20, 2022

To: Milwaukee City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force

From: Paul Mozina

Re: Stop the War on Drugs and then you can begin healing the community

Governments have used mind and body altering substances to serve political and economic ends for many years, most notably beginning with the Opium Wars initiated by the British in 1839 to force opium on the Chinese people and fuel the profits of the British East India company. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century we saw the emergence of world-wide efforts to arbitrarily control and prohibit certain substances via obligatory treaties mandating local law enforcement. This culminated in former president Richard Nixon's infamous "War on Drugs". This is America's longest and most disastrously failed war ever and, sadly it remains ongoing.

There are two aspects of human nature at play here. Human beings have a natural, inherent right to be the masters of their own bodies, free to decide what they will or will not inoffensively consume. This is opposed by the obsession, an addiction really, of some people to control what other people choose to consume. They claim this is for the good of the people, to protect them from themselves, and for the greater good of society. But the greater good is never served by taking the rights of some and giving them to others. This addiction is rationalized by the fallacious notion that the governed have legitimately surrendered their inalienable right to personal sovereignty to the government. It is rationalized by the delusion that individuals can delegate to the government a right they do not possess i.e., the right to control what another free human being chooses to inoffensively consume. This is wrong, no person can delegate a right they do not have to any association of people calling themselves the government. This is a violation of Natural Law.

The reason this Task Force has utterly failed to reduce the harms caused by the abusive consumption of certain substances is that you have aligned yourselves with the prohibitionists, the authoritarians – in violation of Natural Law -- and ignored the fact that you are dealing with free human beings who will find a way to get what they want no matter the cost.

You stubbornly refuse to consider the catastrophic effects the misguided and illegitimate War on Drugs has had on our communities over the last 50 years. The accumulated damage wrought by the targeted enforcement of drug laws on minority communities is incalculable. And yet this Task Force refuses to acknowledge this critical piece of the puzzle. You refuse to investigate the negative impacts, the collateral damage, inflicted by drug prohibition on our communities.

Your best efforts have undoubtable saved many, but they have also served to sustain the illusion that you can successfully oppose Mother Nature with arbitrary laws. Education and treatment in the context of a prohibition effort that violates Natural Law, only entrenches the delusion that human beings are not free, they are rather, human resources that need to be managed and controlled – for their own and the greater good of society. Society is a figment of human imagination, an incorporeal nonentity; it does not have rights that supersede the rights of the individual.

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I offer my services if you are willing to listen to my suggestions. I don't pretend to have all the answers, and I don't have a quick fix to undo the damage done by 50 years of drug war prohibition. I implore you to expand the scope of this Task Force and investigate the impact that drug prohibition is having on our communities and on your efforts to reduce the harms that the abuse of certain substances can cause.