

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
GENERAL DISCUSSION
December 3rd, 2024
2:15 P.M.**

Present: Nathan Pilgreen, Mike Holley and Ben Bridges. Absent: Glenn Hutto. Also present were Brenda Abercrombie, Alan Ates, Danielle Harkins, Sheriff Dusty Gates and Johnny Creed.

Mr. Pilgreen called the meeting to order. Sheriff Mr. Hutto led the group in prayer.

There was no Public Comment on agenda items.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Holley and declared adopted by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Bridges to approve the minutes of the May 7th, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding prohibiting the sale of Kratom in Union Parish. Kratom is an herbal extract that comes from the leaves of an evergreen tree called *Mitragyna Speciosa*. Kratom is sold in convenience stores. It is a supplement that is sold as an energy booster, mood lifter, pain reliever and remedy for the symptoms of quitting opioids.

If a moderate dose is taken, Kratom acts as a stimulant. If you use higher doses then it can reduce pain and make individuals feel calm and less anxious. Kratom starts to work in minutes. Kratom has many side effects which include weight loss, dry mouth, nausea/vomiting, constipation, liver damage, muscle pain, high blood pressure, delusions, confusion, tremors and seizures.

Sheriff Gates stated that Kratom was recently banned in Ouachita Parish. Kratom has been banned in seven (7) parishes. The legislature passed Act 416 which prohibits the sale of Kratom to anyone under the age of twenty-one (21). The act also gave local governing authorities to take it a step further and prohibit the sale of the stimulant in each parish.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Holley to recommend to the full jury to prohibit the sale of Kratom in Union Parish. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Holley declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Holley and duly seconded by Mr. Bridges on this the 3rd day of December, 2024.

**Mike Holley, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary-Treasurer**