

November 15, 2012

## **STENEHJEM ISSUES CEASE & DESIST AGAINST MINOT HEAD SHOP FOR SALES OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS**

BISMARCK, ND – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem today issued a Cease & Desist order against Hemp Horizonz, operating at two locations in Minot, its owner, Joseph Skorick and its employees, banning them from selling incense, bath salts, and other dangerous synthetic products. Stenehjem issued a similar order yesterday against Big Willies ATP of Mandan.

The Cease & Desist order alleges violations of the consumer fraud law and the North Dakota Food, Drug & Cosmetics Act. In an undercover operation conducted yesterday, employees of Hemp Horizonz sold multiple packages of a synthetic street drug alternative. During the sale, the employee represented that the products “tasted good,” even though the packages are labeled “not for human consumption.”

“I gave a warning yesterday that I would take immediate action against any business in the state that was selling these dangerous synthetic street drug alternatives. I also put the head shops on notice that we were closely monitoring their activities,” Stenehjem said. “I will continue my investigations for as long as these dangerous drugs are being sold anywhere in this state,” he continued.

Since the order against Big Willies ATP issued yesterday, Stenehjem’s office has received numerous tips from concerned citizens about suspected sales of these synthetic products at head shops in other cities across the state.

“Almost immediately after the news broke yesterday, people started calling the BCI tip line to provide information about suspected sales in other cities. My office is working with local law enforcement agencies across the state to follow up on this information,” said Stenehjem.

Stenehjem encouraged anyone with information about ongoing sales of these dangerous synthetic products to call the BCI tip line, toll free, at 800-472-2185.

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