

# COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## Press Release

**SHERIFF DAVID W. HARRISON JR.**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 10, 2012

### **SUBSTANCE KNOWN AS “SYNTHETIC CANNABIS” SEEN AS GROWING PROBLEM IN COLUMBIA COUNTY**

Columbia County, NY – Columbia County Sheriff David Harrison, Jr. is informing Columbia County residents of a potential danger involving a substance that looks like Marijuana and is being sold in some convenient stores. The substance being sold as “herbal incense” and “herbal smoking blends” is presently legal to sell. It is also known as “synthetic cannabis”, “K2” and “Spice”.

As defined by Wikipedia, Synthetic Cannabis is a psychoactive herbal and chemical product that, when consumed, mimics the effects of cannabis. It’s also reported that this substance, alone or in combination with other substances, may cause symptoms including anxiety coupled with agitation, tachycardia, elevated blood pressure, vomiting, hallucinations and possible tremors.

Packages are labeled not for human consumption, however many times the contents are being used as a mind altering substance. New York State law makers are trying to make the synthetic cannabis illegal however, chemists regularly change the ingredients slightly skirting around the law.

The Sheriff’s Office has contacted schools districts in the county with information about the substance. It is also important that parents be aware of the possible harmful effects of these products as they are readily available for purchase by their children.