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What is a Whippet?



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Whippets, is a familiar street name for whipped-cream chargers, steel cartridges filled with nitrous oxide N₂O that are meant to be used with whipped cream dispensers.

Filled with nitrous oxide, also referred to as “laughing gas” or “hippy crack” they are all too commonly used to get “high”.

In Southwest Detroit, residents, volunteers, and police are finding the whippet cartridges and non-refillable cylinders (sold as a food Product) littering our neighborhoods.

In January non-refillable cylinders began showing up in our local stores and gas stations and subsequently on the streets. The amount of N₂O in one of the cylinders equals 100 whippet cartridges.






NON-REFILLABLE CYLINDER


WHIPPETS IN BIKE LANES

⊘ WHIPPETWIPEOUTCAMPAIGN



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 **Legislative Opportunities** 

1. Desired Outcome: Ban the Sale of Nitrous Oxide
2. State/City-Wide Safe Collection and Disposal Policies
3. Store Owners: Law/Regulation to Require Documentation & Record Keeping for Nitrous Oxide Purchases
4. Life Cycle of a Whippet
5. Prevention and Treatment
6. Enforcement for Community Safety Training and Strategies

 WHIPPET OUTCAMPAIGN

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 **1. Desired Outcome: Ban the Sale of Nitrous Oxide** 

Description


Ban the sale of nitrous oxide by city ordinance or state law. The only exception would be medical and industrial use. Fines are set at \$1,000 and/or jail time for distributors. Retail sales are banned regardless of intended use.

<p>Possible Regulating Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Ordinance • State Law • MDOT • Fire Marshall • DPW • Michigan Board of Pharmacy • Michigan Food and Safety Alliance 	<p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail sales are banned regardless of intended use. • Limited to medical and industrial use only. • Fines \$1,000 and possible jail time
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All other measures suggested should be considered stopgap measures to implement while the ordinance banning sale of nitrous oxide is in process. That is with exception for cleanup provisions, auto accident reporting, and Angel Programs. Please pursue vigorously as the city of Rialto, CA has proven this is an attainable goal. [City Ordinance in Rialto, CA.](#)

Additional Resources

<p><u>California Law Links</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council Members • Penal-Code 381 PC • News: Rialto Passes Nitrous Oxide Ordinance 	<p><u>Michigan Board of Pharmacy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan Food and Safety Alliance
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 WHIPPET OUTCAMPAIGN

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2. State/City-Wide Safe Collection and Disposal Policies

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Description
Safe collection and disposal of nitrous oxide cartridges and non-refillable cylinders by organizations, residents, and volunteers through city-wide process or program.

Possible Regulating Agencies

- City Ordinance
- State Law
- MDOT
- Fire Marshall
- DPW
- Michigan Food Safety Alliance
- MIOSHA
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

**26,000
WHIPPETS
PICKED UP
IN 4 WEEKS**

Institute measures to immediately relieve the community of Southwest Detroit from the undue burden of collecting and safely disposing whippet cartridges (40,000 cleaned up in 2020 alone). Also focusing on the new emerging large non-refillable nitrous oxide tanks that are replacing the smaller cartridges as these tanks contain 100x the nitrous oxide of the small cartridges.

Additional Resources

- [Michigan Food & Safety Alliance](#)
- News: [How Should I Dispose of n20 Chargers](#)

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3. Store Owners: Law/Regulation to Require Documentation & Record Keeping for Nitrous Oxide Purchases

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Description
Require store owners to provide documents and record-keeping for those purchasing whippets or N2O in any form. ID of purchaser, log of purchases, and purchaser ID is required as record-keeping by any sales outlet. Non-compliance will leave the business owner subject to fines, similar to Sudafed purchases at pharmacies.

Store Owners:

- Supply information on their source for whippets
- Clean up assessment fee for retailers selling N2O products
- Add to Bottle Law: Collect deposit fee for each box of whippets & cylinders collected
- Language for knowingly stocking and selling products that prove to be used for purposes other than what is on the label. With whippets, very few households have the dispenser these are meant to charge.
- Put store identifying label on the box or cylinders.



**23 RETAIL STORES
SELLING WHIPPETS
IN 48209 & 48210**

Possible Regulating Agencies


- City Ordinance
- State Law
- MDOT
- Fire Marshall
- DPW
- Michigan Board of Pharmacy
- Michigan Food Safety Alliance
- MIOSHA

Additional Resources


- [Federal Guidelines for Safe Storage of Nitrous Oxide](#)
- [National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health](#)
- [MEC's Bottle Bill Legislation](#)




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4. Life Cycle of a Whippet



Description


Life Cycle of a Whippet cartridge and non-refillable N2O cylinder. From manufacturer to transporter (including importing and crossing over state lines), distributor to retailer, seller to recycling or melting down process.

Possible Regulating Agencies

- City Ordinance
- State Law
- MDOT
- Fire Marshall
- DPW
- Michigan Board of Pharmacy
- Michigan Food Safety Alliance
- MIOSHA
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Additional Resources

- [Michigan Food & Safety Alliance](#)
- [MEC's Bottle Bill Legislation](#)
- **MDOT Contacts:**
 - We are looking for an MDOT contact to discuss and learn what the regulations are for transporting, handling, storage, and disposal.



W-REGU7CARPAIGN

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5. Prevention and Treatment








Possible Resource Agencies

- Michigan State Police- Angel Program
- State/Local Health Departments
- [ALPACT – Michigan Round Table](#)
- Court System
 - Social Justice Programs
 - Community Service Programs

Additional Resources

- Treatment:
 - [Angel Program](#)
- Prevention:
 - [SUDDS](#)
 - [Candle, Inc.](#)


W-REGU7CARPAIGN

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6. Enforcement for Community Safety Training and Strategies

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LASD's task force is taking on a drug that's known to fuel street takeovers and underground parties.

Posted March 4, 2021

Collaboration between local police officers and prosecutors to raise awareness and enforcement.

Safety training to protect our first responders

Possible Partners

- Detroit Police Department (4th Precinct is active with the coalition)
- Michigan State Police
- Federal Agencies
- Michigan Attorney General
- Local Prosecutors
- Municipal State and Federal Court System




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IN POLICE CAMPAIGN

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Whippet Misuse: A Growing Hazard SW Detroit

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Dispenser

Whippets are used to recharge whipped cream dispensers, which are in very few households. Whippets are a restaurant supply item.



Magnetic rollers help clean up 30k Whippets in streets/parking lots (2020)

Volunteers cleaned up over 30,000 whippets from streets and parking lots in Southwest Detroit in 2020.



New! Larger tanks litter streets (2021)

In 2021 stores are selling nitrous oxide tanks equivalent to 100 Whippets - adding a new dimension to the hazard.

The escalating presence of discards needs a solution. Safe transport, storage and handling are a concern.

Hazards in community: Fire & chemical danger, pedestrian & driving safety, health & welfare of family and community, and economic impact.

Note altered label

Resources:

- **Federal guidelines** All compressed gas cylinders (regardless of size) shall be secured to racks, walls, work benches, or hand trucks by a strong chain or strap, or secured by any other approved method capable of preventing the cylinder from falling or being knocked over.
- **CDC National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health** - investigation of firefighter killed in explosion of nitrous oxide while fighting a fire. Recommendations and findings included.

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IN POLICE CAMPAIGN

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Whippet Misuse: A Growing Hazard SW Detroit



Concerns:

- The larger non-refillable containers of nitrous oxide, plus the inventory of whippets, stored in a small area where there are butane lighters etc. may be a reason to investigate as a fire hazard due to the lack of space, control etc.
- A new risk is that of an explosion in auto accident involving a vehicle with these tanks. 4th Precinct report that they are seeing more N2O containers in nighttime accident investigations. Currently there is no methodology to track.
- Add concern, residents and 4th precinct officers are finding altered Non-refillable cylinders found on the street.




Nitro/Supreme Whip & more brands
Sold from behind the counter in gas stations and convenience stores. Also in tobacco and marijuana stores.



Package and Cartridges
Also available on Amazon and other internet sites.



Crackers
This device that aids in the misuse of Whippets is widely sold.




Cartridges with balloons
Litter includes both cartridges and balloons used in the misuse of Whippets, posing safety and environmental hazards.



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Who is the Whippet WipeOut Campaign Coalition?

The Whippet Coalition grew out of a four-week pilot Southwest Detroit whippet cleanup program initiated by Frank Venegas, Chairman and CEO of the Ideal Group, Inc. After the July 4th holiday, our Southwest Detroit streets and parks looked like it rained whippets. Frank and Ideal partnered with our lead non-profit Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision and organized a neighborhood clean up complete with local gift cards for residents bringing in the most whippets. In four weeks, the volunteers gathered 26,000 plus whippets.

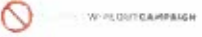


Whippet WipeOut Campaign Metrics:

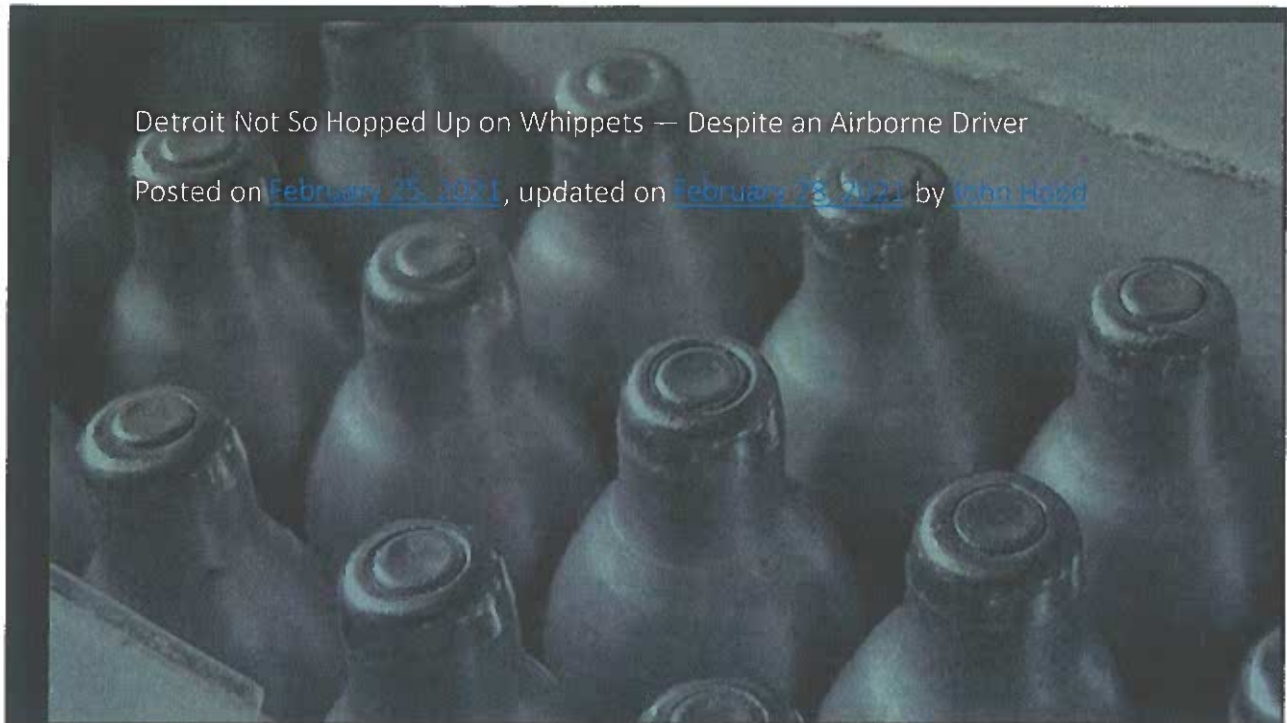
- 46 members
- 20 organizations including various city departments, City Council Member, State Senator
- 3 Michigan organizations have joined outside the city limits – Downriver organization just became aware of the issue in their communities after the snow melt. 2 Livingston County organizations watching as a trending drug
- 1 organization is out of state (CANDLE, Inc, Pennsylvania) – with a national presence in multiple states including Michigan

Resources:

- [Recovery Bootcamp Article: Detroit Not So Hopped Up On Whippets](#)
- [Candle Inc Article: Whippets As A Drug](#)
- [Whippet Wipeout Website & Facebook Page](#)



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**HELP KEEP
SOUTHWEST DETROIT
CLEAN AND SAFE!**

"As a community, we have a growing concern about the volume of whippets being abused by residents who are breathing in nitrous oxide from a whipped cream dispenser to get high."

-Frank Venegas Jr., Ideal Group Chairman and CEO

 **WHIPPETWIPEOUTCAMPAIGN**

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