

Legistar ID No.: 2018-0740

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

FOR: Council Meeting of December 18, 2018

FROM: Council Member Adella Gray


ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TITLE AND SUBJECT:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE OPIOD EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND IN ARKANSAS; AND TO ENGAGE IN LITIGATION AS A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE DEFENSE PROGRAM AGAINST THOSE ENTITIES AND PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SOCIETAL CRISIS

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:


Council Member Adella Gray

12/11/18
Date


Asst. City Attorney Blake Pennington
Approved as to form

12/10/18
Date

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND IN ARKANSAS; AND TO ENGAGE IN LITIGATION AS A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL LEGAL DEFENSE PROGRAM AGAINST THOSE ENTITIES AND PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SOCIETAL CRISIS.

WHEREAS, our nation and the state of Arkansas have suffered substantially by virtue of the addiction and dependency on opioids, both legally prescribed and criminally secured; and,

WHEREAS, on October 26th, 2017 the President of the United States of America declared the opioid crisis to be a “public health emergency,” and;

WHEREAS, Arkansas’ hospitals and rehabilitation centers cannot keep pace with the flood of victims; and,

WHEREAS, Arkansas has been ranked as the number two state in the nation in per capita prescriptions of opioid medications in 2016; and,

WHEREAS, in 2013 the cost of prescription opioid dependence, abuse and overdose was \$78.5 billion dollars for the nation as a whole: and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 an estimated 12.131 billion dosage units (pills) were prescribed nationally equating to 97.36 pills per household; and,

WHEREAS, based upon the number of opioid prescription issued in 2016 it has been estimated that every man, woman and child, regardless of age would have 37.5 pills in hand at any given time; and,

WHEREAS, drug overdose fatalities in 2016 across the nation numbered 64,000 people while traffic fatalities for the same period number approximately 40,200; and,

WHEREAS, municipal governments have born a substantial financial and societal burden fighting this crisis and epidemic and will face abatement costs for this nuisance for many years to come; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Fayetteville has agreed to become a member of the Municipal Legal Defense Program and seeks to make use of the legal services provided by the Program to hold those responsible for this crisis to the highest letter of the law; and,

WHEREAS, the Municipal Legal Defense Program in concert with the other risk management pools in Arkansas have combined resources to bring litigation against those responsible on behalf of all counties, cities and towns in the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby recognizes the acute need to address the opioid crisis in this state and wishes to do so by joining the efforts of other Municipal Legal Defense Program members to bring litigation against those responsible as advised by the Municipal Legal Defense Program.

PASSED and APPROVED this 18th day of December, 2018.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

By: _____
LIONELD JORDAN, Mayor

By: _____
SONDRA E. SMITH, City Clerk/Treasurer