

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-326

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Salem

Date of Introduction: April 26, 2022

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: April 26, 2022

Type of Action: Authorization of participation in settlement agreement and emergency passage upon introduction

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the City of Jacksonville's participation in the CVS/Teva/Allergan Settlement as memorialized in the executed Settlement Agreements and Releases. Emergency passage upon introduction of this legislation is requested because the State of Florida has requested the immediate execution and return of the Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms.

Background Information: Since 1999, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids (including prescription opioids and heroin) have quadrupled nationwide. In addition to the tragic loss of lives, there are many long-term effects of the opioid epidemic such as neonatal abstinence syndrome, increased the number of children placed in foster care, workforce through absenteeism and turnover, exhausting first responder personnel, and depleting resources of local governments, emergency rooms, and law enforcement. The opioid epidemic was declared a National Public Health Emergency and a Florida Public Health Emergency in 2017. In 2017, the City of Jacksonville initiated an intervention pilot program to attempt to slow the deaths from opioid overdoses, and Project Save Lives is now in its 5th year of operation, with more than 4672 patients served since the program's inception.

Resolution 2017-674-A authorized the Office of General Counsel to pursue any and all available legal means and proceedings to prosecute the appropriate claims against pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors of opioids to remedy the significant damages incurred in connection with the opioid epidemic. The City has been a party to Opioid Litigation for several years, based on allegations that certain pharmaceutical companies, pharmacies and distributors distributed and dispensed prescription opioid pain medication improperly in a fashion that has caused harm to the health of Jacksonville residents and to others throughout the State.

The City is a litigating participant in action In re: National Opiate Litigation, MDL No. 20 2804 (N.D. Ohio) filed by the State of Florida and numerous Florida Cities and Counties. The State of Florida has now entered into settlement agreements with Defendants, CVS Health Corporation, CVS Pharmacy, Inc., Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries, Ltd., and Allergan Finance, LLC. The City of Jacksonville is a participant in the State of Florida's unified plan, known as the "Florida Plan," for the allocation and use of prospective settlement dollars from opioid related litigation. The purpose of this legislation is to approve the execution of the Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms.

Policy Impact Area: Opioid Litigation

Fiscal Impact: Funds to be received from settlement to be determined

Analyst: Hampsey

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