

Resolution #54-0371
2021 Resolution Book, Page 147

**RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM APPROVING THE
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON PROCEEDS RELATING TO THE
SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION**

WHEREAS as of 2019, the opioid epidemic had taken the lives of more than 16,500 North Carolinians, torn families apart, and ravaged communities from the mountains to the coast; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and pharmaceutical distribution companies and hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to provide for the equitable distribution of any proceeds from a settlement of national opioid litigation to the State of North Carolina and to individual local governments; and

WHEREAS Local Governments and the State of North Carolina anticipate a settlement in the national opioid litigation to be forthcoming and by signing onto the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA),

the state and local governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities once a negotiation is finalized, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and

WHEREAS it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including the City of Winston-Salem and its citizens, to sign onto the MOA and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid epidemic, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and this city to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS the MOA directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Winston-Salem City Council hereby approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of pending Opioid Litigation, and any subsequent settlement funds that may come into North Carolina as a result of the opioid crisis, and hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute any documents related to the acceptance or allocation of opioid settlement funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution and the signed MOA be sent to opioiddocs@ncdoj.gov and others as required.

This the 2nd day of August, 2021.

**Winston-Salem City Council
APPROVED
August 2, 2021**