



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 27, 2017

Alderman Michael J. Murphy
(414) 286-3763

Alderman Murphy calls on residents to join him in the fight against the opioid crisis

Alderman Michael J. Murphy is addressing opioid abuse and the fight against the crisis at a **public meeting tomorrow Saturday, October 28 at 10 a.m.** at **Humboldt Park Pavilion**, 3000 S. Howell Ave. He will be speaking with residents about their concerns and ideas.

Ald. Murphy has been outspoken and active in addressing opioid addiction and overdose deaths. In January 2017, Alderman Murphy created the *Milwaukee City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force* to bring together city, county, and non-profit resources to address the deadly public health crisis plaguing the region.

The scope of the crisis is growing, as opioid deaths far outweigh fatal motor vehicle accidents, and the gap continues to widen at an astronomical rate. In 2012, 72 people died in car crashes in Milwaukee County compared to 167 people who died as the result of drug use. Flash forward to 2016 and the number of overdoses more than doubled, with 343 people dying from drug abuse, compared to 82 fatal car accidents. Based on statistics from the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner, **Milwaukee County residents are four times more likely to die from a drug overdose than a car accident.**

Death type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 YTD
Homicide	108	123	103	161	168	106
Motor Vehicle Accident	72	51	67	93	82	77
Total Drug Death	167	220	251	254	343	306

-More-

Opioid Meeting/ADD ONE

To address the crisis, Ald. Murphy increased city funding and created partnerships between the police department and area pharmacies to reduce drugs on the street by increasing drop box locations. He also was a co-sponsor on Ald. Jim Bohl's Drug Mail Back Program with CVS Pharmacy, which creates a convenient way for residents to get rid of unwanted and addictive medications. Plus, he partnered with the Zilber Foundation and the Medical College of Wisconsin to develop and deliver evidence-based approaches to local policy makers, researchers and clinical care providers, to reduce the number of opioid related overdose deaths.

While Ald. Murphy appreciates the federal government recognizing this issue as a public health crisis, he is extremely disappointed that the designation doesn't direct additional federal funding to address the problem. To address the issue at the local level, Ald. Murphy is proposing a \$50,000 budget amendment that would leverage additional funding and call for the development of a larger media campaign to create greater awareness around the issue.

Ald. Murphy encourages residents to attend tomorrow's meeting to take part in addressing the crisis head on at a local level, "We ask anyone concerned about, or affected by this issue, to attend and share their concerns, ideas, and suggestions as we move forward in the fight against opioid and drug abuse."

If you or someone you know needs help reach out to 1-800-622-HELP (4357) or log onto <https://mkecope.com/>.