



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 12, 2022

Ald. Michael J. Murphy
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Common Council adopts resolution authorizing acceptance of opioid settlement funds

During today's special meeting of the Common Council (Friday, August 12), the Council adopted file #220562 - a resolution authorizing the proper City officials to accept disbursements of settlement payments relating to the National Prescription Opiate multidistrict litigation. The resolution allows the City to accept an initial settlement payment of up to \$2,000,000, and to accept future settlement disbursements arising from the same litigation of up to \$18,000,000 in aggregate. The file was sponsored by **Alderman Michael J. Murphy** who also chairs the City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force.

Alderman Murphy sponsored a related resolution adopted by the Common Council earlier this year that directs settlement funds from opioid litigation be used to fund the Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative (MORI) and other harm-reduction strategies.

"The City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County continue to battle the opioid epidemic that has wreaked havoc in our community by tearing apart families, putting unnecessary strain on our first responders, and creating extra burden for our healthcare and criminal justice systems," said Alderman Murphy. "I'm glad that these settlement funds will support proven harm-reduction strategies such as MORI as our community continues to combat this public health crisis."

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Opioid Settlement Funds/ADD ONE

“These settlement funds provide a significant opportunity for us to increase our response to the opioid and overdose crisis,” said Milwaukee Health Commissioner Kirsten Johnson. “The Milwaukee Health Department is committed to partnering with other local organizations and agencies and using our resources to help those impacted.”

The MORI program was created in 2019 in response to the overdose crisis, and seeks to decrease instances of repeated overdoses through relationship building and guided access to available resources and treatment. The program utilizes opioid-related overdose data from the Milwaukee Fire Department to initiate a rapid response by a trained community paramedic and peer support specialist to engage clients in treatment and recovery services following an overdose.

The community-wide collaboration consists of partners from treatment and recovery organizations, insurance companies, academic institutions, hospitals, health departments, and many others. Through the first two quarters of 2022, MORI has conducted 1,995 contact attempts that have resulted in 328 successful patient contacts in addition to 311 successful non-patient contacts.