

Introduced by: Mayor
Date: 02/21/23
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2023-016**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PARTICIPATE IN ADDITIONAL
OPIOID SETTLEMENTS**

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), there were over 70,000 overdose deaths reported in the U.S. in 2019, with two-thirds of these deaths involving an opioid; and

WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic has devastated the lives of individuals and families throughout the State of Alaska (“State”), and beyond the tragic and heartbreaking impact on Alaskan families, opioid impacts have ravaged the communities of the Kenai Peninsula Borough (“Borough”), and stretched-thin available government services and local agency services; and

WHEREAS, local governments are on the front lines of the opioid epidemic which has imposed significant continuing costs for healthcare, criminal justice, social services, emergency medical response providers, and the education system in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the CDC estimates that the total “economic burden” of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, addiction treatment, lost productivity, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, in response to the opioid epidemic thousands of state and local governments across the country joined together to file lawsuits against opioid manufactures and pharmaceutical distribution companies to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Borough agreed to participate in and signed onto what is known as the Distributor Settlements and the Janssen Settlements and, as part of the Borough’s participation in these settlements, the Borough set up a grant program to distribute opioid settlement funds to entities that provide eligible opioid remediation programs or services; and

WHEREAS, the State recently signed onto five additional opioid settlements with Teva, Allergan, Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens; and

WHEREAS, the settlement agreements are available at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>; and

WHEREAS, the total (approximate) settlement figures are as follows: Walmart, ~\$8.5 million in one year; Teva, ~\$8.2 million over 13 years; Allergan ~4.8 million over 6 years; CVS, ~\$10 million over 10 years; Walgreens, ~\$11 million over 15 years; and

WHEREAS, per the settlement agreements 85% of the settlements goes to the State, 15% goes to the nine largest political subdivisions of the State, of that 15% the Borough would receive a 9.49% share based on population; and

WHEREAS, settlements must be used on future opioid remediation; and

WHEREAS, the Borough did not file suit against any of the five entities included in the most recent settlements, signing onto these settlements represents the Borough's opportunity to receive settlement funds from these settlements while also promoting the greatest statewide settlement amount; and

WHEREAS, the Borough must sign onto to the latest settlements by April 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Kenai Peninsula Borough residents and the entire State of Alaska for the Borough to participate in the additional opioid settlements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:


SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough agrees to the terms of the additional opioid settlements with Teva, Allergan, Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens, as proposed and authorizes the mayor to enter into such settlements, and any other future opioid related settlements.

SECTION 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 21ST DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.


Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Michele Turner, CMC, Acting Borough Clerk



Yes: Chesley, Cox, Derkevorkian, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: None