

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution to approve the City's participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against Six Remnant defendants and directing the City Attorney to execute the documents necessary to participate in the settlement .
Staff Contact(s):	Steven King, Assistant to the City Manager
Presenter:	John Maddux, City Attorney
Date of Proposed Action:	April 20, 2026

Issue

The opioid epidemic cost thousands of human lives across the country and adversely impacted the delivery of emergency medical, law enforcement, criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse services, and other services by the City's various departments and agencies. Responding to the various social, structural, and psychological damage caused by the epidemic has required the allocation of substantial taxpayer dollars, resources, and staff energy in the past and will continue to be require a great deal of public resources and resolve.

Background / Rule

In July 2021, the three major pharmaceutical distributors—McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen agreed to a settlement totaling \$21 billion payable over 18 years, along with \$5 billion from Janssen Pharmaceuticals (Johnson & Johnson) over nine years. At least 85% of these funds are designated for opioid abatement purposes.

These agreements resolved a substantial portion of claims brought by states, cities, counties, and tribal governments in multidistrict litigation (MDL-2804), which consolidated more than 2,900 cases originating from communities suffering opioid-related harms

Analysis

Signing on to the settlement will allow the City to receive additional financial resources to support programs, projects, and initiatives designed to reduce opioid use and support those struggling with addiction.

Financial Impact

The portion of the settlement that will be awarded to the City will be determined by the States funding formula, and it is currently unclear how much more the City will receive annually in settlement funds.

Recommendation

City Staff recommends City Council adopt the attached Resolution approving a City Attorney to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the City's participation in the settlements.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

City Staff request waiving the second reading and approving the resolution on the first reading in order to sign onto the settlement before the May 6th deadline.

Attachments

1. RESOLUTION Opioid settlement 6 Remnant Defendants