

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, STATING THE BROAD POLICY GUIDELINES FOR USE OF SAID FUNDS, AND OUTLINING THE PROCESS BY WHICH FUNDS WILL BE DISPERSED. (*Requested by Councilmember Bridget McCandless*)

WHEREAS, the City of Independence will be receiving funds from several collective opioid legal settlements, and;

WHEREAS, the drug use is a complex issue with broad societal and safety impacts, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to utilize the expertise of those individuals who live or work in the community, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council further desires to ensure that these funds are utilized in a manner that is consistent with the terms of each settlement and that funds are awarded in a fair, equitable, and unbiased manner that achieves the highest and best use of said funds, and;

WHEREAS, the Independence City Council has adopted the “City of Independence Action Plan”, and;

WHEREAS, the Action Plan seeks to, in part, “work with our partners to improve education, public awareness, and to coordinate programs concerning public health...emergency services, criminal justice, and important social services”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee is hereby created by the City Council of the City of Independence.

SECTION 2. That the Committee shall develop a formal process for soliciting applications, recommending award amounts to the City Council, and tracking the use of opioid settlement funds. The Committee shall pursue the highest and best use of these funds by seeking investments that compliment and support interventions with a solid evidence base. The City shall make investments recognizing that these are not unlimited funds and are time-limited within the bounds of the opioid settlement. The City shall follow the guidelines on disbursement including the prohibition of supplanting existing program funds and shall report the disbursements as set forward in the opioid settlement funding agreements. Opioid settlement funds shall be segregated from all other General and Special Use Funds.

SECTION 3. That the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee shall consist of nine members who shall be residents of or work in Independence, two of whom shall be Council. The City Manager is hereby directed to solicit applications from candidates with the qualities of leadership, temperance, judgment and interest in programs and services designed to combat the opioid epidemic. The two Council Members assigned to this committee shall interview applicants and recommend appointments. Appointments to the committee will be made by a majority vote of City Council. The committee shall give priority to members who have lived experience, mental health or substance use disorder experience and bring a perspective with a broad range of ages.

SECTION 4. That the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation for a term expiring no later than March 1st, 2025, unless further action of the Council extends the Committee's duties or until a successor is duly qualified and appointed.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager