

RESOLUTION

A resolution to declare the unlawful distribution of opioid medications and opioid addiction a public nuisance

WHEREAS, the United States and the several States, including the State of Louisiana, and its political subdivisions are experiencing, in the words of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an opioid-induced "public health epidemic," and;

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2017, the President of the United States declared the opioid crisis to be a "public health emergency," and;

WHEREAS, 91 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose, with more than 15,000 deaths involving prescription opioids alone in 2015, and;

WHEREAS, data provided by the Louisiana Municipal Association states that in recent years Louisiana has seen an alarming rise in opioid- related overdoses and has become one of eight states where the number of opioid prescriptions outnumbers the number of Louisiana residents, and;

WHEREAS, the Workers' Compensation Research Institute reports that 85% of injured workers in Louisiana on pain medication received opioids from 2012 to 2014 and one in six received opioids on a long term basis, ranking Louisiana #1 among the 25 states studied for long-term use, and;

WHEREAS, opioid addiction is a disease that affects people of both sexes and all race/ethnic groups and socioeconomic backgrounds, and;

WHEREAS, during the 2017 regular session of the Louisiana legislature, the Louisiana Municipal Association passionately supported multiple legislative measures to address the opiate epidemic; and;

WHEREAS, approximately 675 Louisiana residents die from prescription overdoses each year; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has seen death by drug overdoses triple since 1999; and;

WHEREAS, Louisiana is in the top 10 states for drug overdose death rates, and;

WHEREAS, Tangipahoa Parish is reported to have the second highest rating in Louisiana for opioid abuse, and;

WHEREAS, local governments have born substantial financial and societal burdens related to this crisis and epidemic and will incur costs for this nuisance for years to come into the foreseeable future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hammond City Council that:

SECTION 1. The Hammond City Council finds and declares that unlawful distribution of opioid medications and opioid addiction is a public nuisance and supports efforts to abate this nuisance including securing the funds necessary to address the public health consequences and other local services needed to treat the problems created by this nuisance.

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THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION having been made by motion of _____ and second by _____, then submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

WHEREUPON, this Resolution was declared to be adopted by the Hammond City Council on this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Tonia Banks, Clerk

Johnny Blount, President Hammond City Council