

RESOLUTION 2018-01

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND IN ARKANSAS; AND TO ENGAGE IN LITIGATION AGAINST THOSE ENTITIES AND PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SOCIETAL CRISIS.

WHEREAS, our nation and the state of Arkansas have suffered substantially by virtue of the addiction and dependency on opioids, both legally prescribed and criminally secured; and,

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

WHEREAS, Arkansas' hospitals and rehabilitation centers cannot keep pace with the flood of victims; and,

WHEREAS, Arkansas has been ranked as the number two state in the nation in per capita prescriptions of opioid medications in 2016; and,

WHEREAS, in 2013 the cost of prescription opioid dependence, abuse and overdose was \$78.5 billion dollars for the nation as a whole: and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 an estimated 12.131 billion dosage units (pills) were prescribed nationally equating to 97.36 pills per household; and,

WHEREAS, based upon the number of opioid prescription issued in 2016 it has been estimated that every man, woman and child, regardless of age would have 37.5 pills in hand at any given time; and,

WHEREAS, drug overdose fatalities in 2016 across the nation numbered 64,000 people while traffic fatalities for the same period number approximately 40,200; and,

WHEREAS, municipal governments have borne a substantial financial and societal burden fighting this crisis and epidemic and will face abatement costs for this nuisance for many years to come; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Searcy is a member of the Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association (APERMA) and seeks to make use of the legal services provided by the Program to hold those responsible for this crisis to the highest letter of the law; and,

WHEREAS, the risk management pools in Arkansas have combined resources to bring litigation against those responsible on behalf of all counties, cities and towns in the state.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SEARCY, ARKANSAS:

Searcy, Arkansas recognizes the acute need to address the opioid crisis in this state and wishes to do so by joining the efforts of other risk management pool participant members to bring litigation against those responsible as advised by Ralph Ohm, General Counsel for APERMA.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of January, 2018.

/s/ David Morris
Mayor of Searcy

ATTEST:
/s/ Jerry Morris
City Clerk

