

Resolve 2-17/18

Passage: 9-0 on 9/18/2017

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)
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**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

Effective 9/28/2017

DAVID H. BRENERMAN (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO JOIN A LAWSUIT
AGAINST OPIATE DRUG COMPANIES**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Portland, Maine, has learned to its sorrow over the last several years exactly how devastated many of its residents have become because of addictions to painkillers manufactured by drug companies; and

WHEREAS, officers working for the Portland Police Department, Fire Department and several other City Departments are required to respond every day to problems that arise because of addiction to painkillers; and

WHEREAS, to treat and abate the opioid epidemic, the City has needed to shift resources that could have otherwise been used for various improvements and the general betterment of the City; and

WHEREAS, employees in the Social Services Division who manage the City's homeless shelters work with many homeless people who suffer from drug addiction to painkillers and who struggle to care for themselves; and

WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of people who use heroin have been prescribed opiates in the past; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 376 people died in the State of Maine from drug overdoses, and 123 of those deaths were caused by pharmaceutical opioids; and

WHEREAS, 42 people died of drug overdoses in the City of Portland in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the ease with which these drugs have been obtained, as a result of drug companies' campaign to make them readily prescribed for common aches and pains, has led many people to become addicted; and

WHEREAS, opiate drug companies have enjoyed enormous profits with the sales of opiate drugs, promoting them relentlessly among physicians and paying doctors to promote these drugs at conferences, while failing repeatedly to successfully tailor the drugs to make abuse impossible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council and Mayor hereby authorize Corporation Counsel Danielle West-Chuhta to engage the services of Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC and Trafton, Matzen, Belleau & Frenette, LLP on behalf of the City of Portland with respect to prosecution of any legal claims against manufacturers and distributors of opioids arising out of the manufacturers' and distributors' fraudulent and negligent marketing and distribution of opioids.
