

**City of Wasilla  
Legislative Staff Report  
Resolution Serial No. 21-20**

**A Resolution Of The Wasilla City Council Authorizing The City To Participate In Alaska Opioid Settlements.**

Originator: Administration  
Date: 9/16/2021

Agenda of: 9/27/2021

Route to:	Department Head	Signature	Date
X	Finance Director		9-14-21
X	Deputy Administrator		9-16-21
X	City Clerk		9/17/2021
X	Mayor		9-17-21

**Fiscal Impact:**  yes or  no

**Account name/number:** n/a

**Attachments:** Resolution Serial No. 21-20 (2 pages)

**Summary Statement:** The City of Wasilla along with eight other political subdivisions of the State of Alaska are part of a settlement agreement with Johnson & Johnson and three other pharmaceutical distributors. These agreements resolve legal claims against those companies in return for their payment of \$26 billion and commitment to make major changes in how they do business to improve safety and oversight over the distribution of prescription opioids. As a member of Alaska Municipal League (AML) it is strongly encourage that each member presents a resolution to their city council demonstrating their commitment to receive the payments (including both a base payment as well as incentive payments) over an 18-year period.

The funds must be used on a wide variety of opioid crisis abatement activities. The first payments will be made as the settlement becomes legally effective and are expected to be paid in April 2022. The City of Wasilla is estimated to receive from \$70,000 to \$80,000 annually. Although the proposal states year one is expected to be paid around September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the reality is that those payments are expected to be around March 2022. Payments for year two is expected around July 15, 2022.

Finally, there is \$8.7 million that will be allocated amongst nine primary subdivisions: Anchorage Municipality, City of Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Kodiak Island Borough, Mat-Su Borough, and City of Wasilla.

**Proposed Action:** Adopt Resolution Serial No. 21-20

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3 By: Administration  
4 Adopted: September 27, 2021  
5 Yes: Brown, Burney, Harvey, Johnson, Rausa, Velock  
6 No: None  
7 Absent: None

8 **City of Wasilla**  
9 **Resolution Serial No. 21-20**

10 **A Resolution Of The Wasilla City Council Authorizing The City To Participate In Alaska**  
11 **Opioid Settlements.**  
12

13 WHEREAS opioids have devastated individuals and significantly harmed communities  
14 throughout Alaska, and litigation settlement funds need the flexibility to abate opioid impacts,  
15 current and future; and

16 WHEREAS, opioid impacts have resulted in increased criminal justice law enforcement  
17 demands, increased healthcare demands - including behavioral healthcare - increased  
18 emergency medical services demands, increased educational supportive services demands, and  
19 increased emergency and transitional housing services demands; and

20 WHEREAS, municipalities in Alaska are uniquely suited to help utilize or distribute opioid  
21 settlement funds because of the array of services provided by municipalities and by local  
22 providers; and

23 WHEREAS, opioid settlement funds should be available to reimburse existing and create  
24 new opioid related municipal services - like services for people experiencing homelessness,  
25 police, fire/EMS, behavioral health, and other healthcare - and grants to local providers who  
26 provide opioid support services; and

27 WHEREAS, the municipalities in Alaska also recognize the Alaska Legislature has a  
28 constitutional duty to promote and protect public health and welfare; and

29 WHEREAS, the municipalities in Alaska also recognize the Alaska Legislature has a  
30 constitutional duty to maintain a public school system open to all children, including children that  
31 have been significantly impacted by opioids; and

32 WHEREAS, upon balancing the opioid impacts across the State of Alaska and the desire  
33 to help resolve the current opioid litigation, it is in the interest of all to maximize the amount of  
34 settlement funding that will come to the state; and

35 WHEREAS, the municipalities in Alaska encourage the State of Alaska to create an opioid  
36 settlement distribution that provides stable short-term and long-term funding to abate the opioid  
37 impacts in Alaska's municipalities.

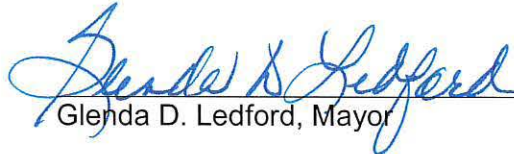
38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Wasilla City Council, that:

39 **Section 1. Authority to Participate in Alaska Opioid Settlements.** The Mayor or City  
40 Attorney is authorized to agree to the terms of the Alaska Opioid Settlements for the purposes of  
41 foregoing future litigation and using settlement funds for opioid abatement.

42 **Section 2. Opioid Settlement Structure.** The Wasilla City Council urges the State of  
43 Alaska to create a settlement structure in collaboration with Alaska municipalities to address local  
44 needs, to support their residents and service providers, and to protect the settlement funds from  
45 legislative action beyond the terms agreed to by parties of the settlement.

46 Effective Date. This resolution takes effect upon adoption.

47 ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on September 27, 2021.

  
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Glenda D. Ledford, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Jamie Newman, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]

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