

RESOLUTION NO. 961-2021, ENSURING NEW PROGRAM FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE COUNTY'S SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk served as a national leader by commencing litigation to hold pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors and pharmacy operators responsible for their varied roles in the creation and perpetuation of the opioid addiction epidemic; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2021, the County Legislature approved settlements with four pharmacy operators and two pharmaceutical manufacturers, while other defendants remain as parties to the litigation; and

WHEREAS, New York State established a specific fund for monies obtained in global settlements associated with opioid litigation involving the State for itself and the various counties to ensure that the settlement monies are used to address the substance use crisis; and

WHEREAS, the State fund authorizes the use of monies as reimbursement for expenses already incurred by the County in relation to the approved uses; and

WHEREAS, while reimbursement for monies already spent may be appropriate, this Legislature asserts that these monies should be used specifically to expand existing programming and related services and for municipal operations targeting and/or impacting opioid prevention, treatment, or recovery and to establish new programs and related services and for municipal operations targeting and/or impacting opioid prevention, treatment, or recovery to combat the continuing and recently surging opioid addiction crisis that generated this litigation; and

WHEREAS, recent data shows drug overdose deaths soared nearly 30% in 2020, propelled by isolation and stress associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore the County should set a policy limiting itself to using monies for the establishment of new Substance Use Disorder ("SUD") prevention, treatment and recovery support programs and related services and for municipal operations targeting and/or impacting opioid prevention, treatment, or recovery and expansion of existing SUD prevention, treatment and recovery support programs and related services and for municipal operations targeting and/or impacting opioid prevention, treatment, or recovery; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of the County of Suffolk that all monies from New York State's dedicated fund for settlement of opioid litigation shall be used by the County to either expand existing SUD prevention, treatment and recovery support programs and related services and for municipal operations, including equipment, technologies and enforcement efforts, targeting and/or impacting opioid prevention, treatment, or recovery or for the establishment of new SUD prevention, treatment and recovery support programs and related services and for municipal operations, including equipment, technologies and enforcement efforts, targeting and/or impacting opioid prevention, treatment, or recovery which conform with

the approved uses ~~terms~~ of the State's opioid settlement fund and statutes implementing same; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that no monies received from New York State's dedicated fund for opioid settlements shall be used to pay for debt service associated with or serve as reimbursement for prior expenditures made by the County in relation to the enumerated purposes authorized by the statute establishing the State fund; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW insofar as these actions constitute routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: November 16, 2021

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: November 19, 2021