

MOTION

The current opioid epidemic facing our country is a drug crisis of unprecedented proportion. Statistics produced by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, which serves as the public health officer for the City of Los Angeles, indicate that in 2016 there were 353 opioid overdose deaths, 719 opioid overdose emergency department visits and 4,631,087 opioid prescriptions written in Los Angeles County.

The City is directly impacted by the increasing prescription, usage and addiction of opioids – most poignantly through the death, physical debilitation and financial destruction of too many members of our community and their families. This crisis also places tremendous financial and human resource burdens on the City’s law enforcement, emergency response, public health and other services.

The City Attorney’s Office has determined that there is a valid basis for the City to bring a lawsuit challenging the actions of pharmaceutical manufacturers as being deceptive and fraudulent marketing practices in violation of federal and state laws. The City Attorney seeks to obtain Council's authority to retain Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP to assist in the representation of the City in this litigation. There will be no general fund expenditure as the Firm will be retained on a contingency fee basis.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council authorize the City Attorney to negotiate and execute a contract with the firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP to assist his office in any litigation filed on behalf of the City against pharmaceutical manufacturers or other businesses associated with the distribution of opioid pharmaceuticals.

ORIGINAL

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: Henry Wong


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