

# MEMORANDUM

Date:

April 11, 2024

To:

Frank Martz, City Manager

Thru:

Tara Culver, Chief Financial Officer

James Riggs, Chief of Police

Mary Sneed, Deputy City Attorney

From:

Amy LoCascio, City Paralegal

Re:

**Update on Opioid Settlement Funds** 

Please find the following update on the use of Opioid Settlement Funds

## **Financial Summary**

We have now received the second of what we anticipate to be eighteen annual payments that result from the settlements exacted by the State relating to the opioid crisis. We received \$17,352.49 in 2022, and have now received \$38,004.23 for 2023, which total \$55,356.72. The payments have been recorded to City account number 13036900-369301-FLOPI. We have expended \$1,920.10 thus far in connection with the City's participation in the SCORE program, but we anticipate expenses relating to the Hope and Healing Center. Details of both the Hope and Healing Center and SCORE are included herein. Also, the City has been advised that the updated total estimated payout amount is \$343,586.22. The updated total includes a recent settlement with Walmart.

#### **Recommended Use of Funds:**

At this time, Altamonte Springs Police Department (ASPD) recommends that funds from the opioid litigation settlement payments be applied towards the following qualifying expenditures:

• **Hope and Healing Center.** The Seminole County Sherriff's Office has proposed a Hope and Healing Center in Altamonte Springs. The Sherriff envisions a

public/private partnership born of a desire to transform the way people struggling with opioid addiction are treated by the health care and criminal justice systems. The center would offer inpatient and intensive outpatient rehabilitation, including individual and group counseling, substance-related and recovery-focused education, reflection and spiritual healing groups, and career assistance. Patients will also be supported with services that address their educational, vocational, behavioral, and housing needs upon discharge from the center.

- Narcotics Overdose Prevention Education (NOPE) program. NOPE is a high-impact multimedia presentation to high school students throughout Seminole County. The NOPE message is delivered from several perspectives, including a from the standpoint of a moderator; from a law enforcement perspective; and from the perspective of parents who have suffered the loss of a child from overdose. The presentation reinforces drug education curriculum and offers the students local community stories to reinforce the need for positive change. Now, more than ever, education of this kind is essential. Programs like NOPE have been proven effective in reducing the occurrence of drug addiction and deaths attributed to overdose.
- Seminole Collaborative Opioid Response Efforts (SCORE) Team. The SCORE Team is a county-wide rapid response group comprised of deputies and Altamonte Springs police officers who respond throughout the county any and every time there is a drug overdose. This response is separate from the criminal investigation component of the law enforcement response to an overdose, where officers work hard to hold drug dealers accountable and prevent future victims. The SCORE Team is an additional resource we implement to save lives. Team members offer counseling, medical, and a host of other resources for the person struggling with addiction, as well as their family and loved ones. This rapid response is critical because, according to the CDC and the police department's real-world experience, people who have had one overdose are at an increased risk of having a second, particularly in the days right after the event. Currently, the City of Altamonte Springs is the only city in Seminole County to partner with the SCSO on this important endeavor.
- Narcan is the brand name medication (Naloxone HCI) approved by the Food and Drug Administration, which is designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. Narcan is an opioid antagonist, which means that Narcan molecules attach to opioid receptors; it reverses and blocks the effects of other opioids, like heroin and fentanyl. Narcan can quickly restore normal breathing to a person if their breathing has slowed or stopped because of an opioid overdose. Of note, Narcan has no effect on someone who does not have opioids in their system.

### Reporting:

The Finance Department has requested access to the Florida Opioid Implementation and Financial Reporting System (FOIFRS) where the annual reports will be submitted. The City is required to report via FOIFRS, no later than June 30th of each year, on how we

intend to expend the funds. The City is required to report its expenditures via FOIFRS, no later than August  $31^{st}$  for the previous fiscal year.

## **Recommendation:**

In consultation with the ASPD and the Finance Department, Legal Affairs recommends you approve this proposed course of action and authorize use of the opioid litigation settlement funds for the purposes set forth herein.

Approved:

Franklin W. Martz, II

City Manager

Date: