

Requesting Information from Administration on existing and future Opioid Settlement Funds and the proposed Fentanyl Intervention Allocation.

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has joined national opioid litigation settlements with manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies, resulting in a statewide allocation framework administered through the Minnesota Attorney General's Office that directs **75% of settlement dollars to local governments**—including cities and counties—and **25% to the State for statewide public health efforts**; and

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, the **City of Saint Paul has been allocated approximately \$7.74 million in opioid settlement funds**, including an initial tranche of more than \$6.29 million, with additional annual payments anticipated through multiple national settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office has announced successive rounds of settlements, including major agreements in 2023 and 2025 with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies, and the City of Saint Paul has formally opted into these settlements through Council action, ensuring the City continues to receive its proportional share of statewide settlement distributions; and

WHEREAS, the use of these funds is governed by the **Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement**, which legally requires cities and counties to spend settlement dollars on evidence-based, community-centered opioid abatement strategies that prioritize prevention, harm reduction, treatment access, recovery support, housing stability, and systems-level coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health has published statewide guidance identifying best practices for local governments on the use of opioid settlement funds, emphasizing comprehensive, equity-centered, trauma-informed, and cross-sector strategies aligned with public health principles; and

WHEREAS, all local jurisdictions receiving settlement funds—including the City of Saint Paul—are legally required to submit **annual expenditure reports to the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Minnesota Management & Budget by March 31** of each year, with aggregated statewide expenditure reports published publicly by August 1, ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of settlement dollars; and

WHEREAS, under the Saint Paul City Charter and budget process, the City Council holds legal and fiduciary responsibility for authorizing the expenditure of City funds, including settlement dollars, and therefore must ensure that all opioid settlement resources—past, present, and future—are planned, reviewed, and approved through a transparent and accountable public process; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has proposed a **\$1 million General Government allocation for a fentanyl intervention and crisis response initiative (“the Initiative”)**, yet no detailed spending plan or cross-departmental strategy has been formally submitted to the City Council, reviewed by the public, or approved through Council action; and

WHEREAS, the severity of the opioid and fentanyl crisis in Saint Paul requires a coordinated, enterprise-wide response involving Fire/EMS, Public Health, the City Attorney’s Office, Police, Parks and Recreation, Libraries, DSI, PED, and community-based organizations, consistent with state guidance and national best practices; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that settlement dollars advance equitable, culturally specific, community-centered strategies—particularly for neighborhoods, families, and individuals most impacted by the opioid crisis—is a core responsibility of the City Council and aligns with statewide expectations for how settlement funds should be used;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the Saint Paul City Council’s authority to approve and review budgetary expenditures, the City Council formally requests by March 1, 2026, information on:

(1) the use and expenditure of existing City opioid settlement funds to ensure a comprehensive and transparent accounting of all opioid settlement resources. This shall include the full current fund balance, projected annual settlement revenues, a description of all expenditures to date, and an analysis of policy outcomes, performance indicators, and measurable impacts of any previously funded initiatives or staff.

(2) a full Opioid Response Spending and Strategy Plan (“Spending Plan”) as provided below that describes the City’s collaborative and complementary approach to the future use of opioid settlement dollars, with specific and detailed information on the envisioned uses of the \$1,000,000 allocation for the Mayor’s fentanyl Initiative in the 2026 budget; and

(3) a proposal to establish a new dedicated account in the 2027 budget and each year thereafter for City opioid settlement funds that would require Council approval to authorize formal transfers from the account for Council-approved opioid epidemic response programming that qualify as eligible uses of settlement funds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Spending Plan must also present a citywide opioid response framework that is fully compliant with the **Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement**, and that outlines how the City will operationalize prevention, harm reduction, treatment access, and community wellness strategies across departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This framework must describe neighborhood-specific approaches to addressing overdose hotspots, housing instability, and other root-cause

drivers; present cross-departmental operational plans for all relevant City divisions—including the City Attorney's Office, Fire, Public Health, Planning and Economic Development, Library, Parks and Recreation, the Department of Safety and Inspections, Police, and others as appropriate and identify proposed partnerships with the Ramsey County Continuum of Care, community-based organizations, culturally specific providers, health care partners, and public safety agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Spending Plan must identify opportunities to utilize settlement funds in an equity-centered strategy that utilizes approaches such as culturally specific engagement approaches, prioritization of prevention and early-intervention supports, programs that strengthen families and individuals impacted by substance use, to address the communities disproportionately harmed by opioid addiction and the fentanyl crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Spending Plan must identify opportunities for City Council and Public Safety and Community Wellness Committee partnership, including where Council-level policy development, program authorization, budgetary action, or legislative direction may be required to effectively advance a comprehensive, citywide opioid and fentanyl response. This section must outline proposed areas of collaboration and articulate policy gaps or structural needs that warrant Council attention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Spending Plan must include a description of how the City's spending plan relates to the County's opioid spending plan, and how the dollars will complement one another.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this request for information applies to all current and future settlement payments received by the City of Saint Paul as part of state or national opioid litigation settlements, including yearly allocations received jointly with Ramsey County.