

Adopted: 10/05/21

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 21-103**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE NATIONWIDE OPIOID LITIGATION.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has a constitutional duty to promote and protect public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has a constitutional duty to maintain a public school system open to all children, including children that have been significantly impacted by opioids; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough agrees to the terms of opioid settlements as proposed and authorizes the Borough Manager to enter into such settlements, and any other future similar settlements, to forgo future litigation and use the settlement funds for opioid abatement.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough urges the State of Alaska to create a settlement structure in collaboration with Alaska municipalities participating in the settlement which will address local needs, support residents and service providers, and to protect the settlement funds from

legislative action beyond the terms agreed to by parties of the settlement.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 5 day of October, 2021.


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Sumner, and Boeve