

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize the City Attorney to take legal action against certain opioid manufacturers and distributors and other appropriate parties to recover public funds that have been and will be expended by the City as a result of the manufacture and distribution of prescription opioids.
(Resolution)

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Presenter name: Naomi Sheffield

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The City of Portland will join hundreds of other jurisdictions in suing prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors. Manufacturers knowingly misled doctors and patients regarding the benefits of prescription opioids for treatment of chronic pain and trivialized the significant risk of addiction. At the same time, distributors failed to monitor prescription opioid distribution and report suspicious orders. These actions resulted in an opioid epidemic, involving a dramatic increase in opioid addiction and overdose deaths. Manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids have experienced significant profits, while the City of Portland, like other jurisdictions, has borne the increased costs for emergency medical services, policing, housing, and medical expenses.

Holding prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors responsible for the significant costs that the City has incurred as a result of their actions is consistent with City policies.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

There will be minor out-of-pocket expenses; the City will be represented by outside counsel on a contingency basis and in-house lawyers in the City Attorney's Office will provide additional services.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This Resolution involves direction from the Council to its lawyers in the City Attorney's Office, based on privileged attorney-client communications, so there was no public outreach or input.

100% Renewable Goal:

Not applicable.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

YES: Please complete the information below.

NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

Amendments

WHEREAS, members of the Sackler family, which founded Purdue Pharma, makers of Oxycontin, including Richard Sackler, were deeply and personally involved in the deceptive marketing of Oxycontin;

WHEREAS, the Sackler family name has been lionized by numerous major cultural and educational institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, and both Harvard and Yale Universities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges all cultural and educational institutions to remove the Sackler family name from any and all exhibits, buildings, professorships and programs where it is featured, and to refuse any new contributions from the Sackler family.

Submitted by
Commissioner
Steve Novick
2/21/2018