



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: February 4, 2014

TITLE: Resolution in support of the group, "Stop the Organized Pill Pushers"
(STOPP) and Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, approve a Resolution in support of the group, "Stop the Organized Pill Pushers" (STOPP) and Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

Background

The State of Florida has a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to reduce abuse, misuse and diversion of controlled substance prescription drugs. This program was created and is regulated by Section 893.055, Florida State Statutes. Two proposed committee bills in the Florida Senate, SPB 7014 and SPB 7016 (included as Exhibits 2 and 3 to this item), seek to amend this statute and would impact the program. A copy of the 2012 – 2013 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Annual Report is included as Exhibit 4 to this item. Based on this report, the program has shown encouraging progress but a cursory review demonstrates that the medical profession should increase the usage of this program.

The group STOPP has advocated for years against pain clinics. They have peacefully protested in front of these businesses and actively supported legislation to deter pain clinic activity. Many members of this organization are parents who have lost children to drug overdose from illegally prescribed narcotics. Some of the recommendations that this group is advancing include:

- Keep the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program accessible for law enforcement without the need for subpoena.
- Make the use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program mandatory for medical professionals.
- Create a program interface with other state systems, especially those who border

Florida and those states whose citizens we know travel to Florida for this illegal activity.

- Identify a permanent sustainable funding stream.

Prescription pill abuse continues to affect our neighbors in the City of Fort Lauderdale and surrounding areas. It is in the City's best interest to support groups and legislation that will curtail the destructive and illegal practices of pill mills to keep our neighbors and visitors safe.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal Impact to the City.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the **Internal Support Cylinder of Excellence**, specifically advancing:

- **Goal 9:** Be the safest urban coastal City in South Florida through preventative and responsive police and fire protection.
- **Objective 1:** Prevent and solve crime in all neighborhoods.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Exhibit 2 – Proposed Committee Bill SPB 7014

Exhibit 3 – Proposed Committee Bill SPB 7016

Exhibit 4 – 2012 – 2013 Florida Health Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Annual Report

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