

RESOLUTION NO. 17-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN REDUCING THE NUMBER OF OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS AND ENSURING SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL; DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, recognizes that the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic is one of the most urgent law enforcement and public health challenges facing our country; and

WHEREAS, opioids are a class of drugs that includes the illegal drug heroin as well as power pain relievers available by prescription, such as oxycodone (oxycontin), hydrocodone (vicodin), codeine, morphine, fentanyl, methadone, and many others; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services recently announced that 3.8 million people ages 12 and older are currently misusing prescription pain relievers in our country; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, more than 60% of the 47,000 drug overdose deaths in America involved opioids, reflecting a dramatic increase over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), opioids are commonly prescribed for pain. In fact, an estimated 20% of patients presenting to physician offices with non-cancer pain symptoms or pain-related diagnoses receive an opioid prescription. In 2012 alone, health care providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for opioid pain medication, enough for every adult in the United States to have a bottle of pills; and

WHEREAS, opioid pain medication use presents serious risks, including overdose and opioid use disorder. From 1999 to 2014, more than 165,000 persons died from overdose related to opioid pain medication in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in the past decade while death rates for the top leading causes of death such as heart disease and cancer have decreased substantially, the death rate associated with opioid pain medication has increased markedly; and

WHEREAS, the sales of opioid pain medication have increased in parallel with opioid- related overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Abuse Warning Network estimated that greater than 420,000 emergency department visits were related to the misuse or abuse of narcotic pain relievers in 2011, the most recent year for which data is available; and

WHEREAS, scientific research has identified high-risk prescribing practices that have contributed to the overdose epidemic; and

WHEREAS, observational research showed significant increases in opioid prescriptions for pediatric populations from 2001 to 2010 and a large proportion of adolescents are commonly prescribed opioid pain medications for conditions such as headache and sports injuries; and

WHEREAS, use of prescribed opioid pain medication before high school graduation is associated with a 33% increase in the risk of later opioid misuse, and misuse of opioid pain medications in adolescence strongly predicts later onset of heroin use. Thus, risk of opioid medication use in pediatric populations is of great concern; and

WHEREAS, on the average day: at least 78 people will die from an opioid-related overdose, 3,900 people will use a prescription opioid outside of legitimate medical purposes and supervision, and 580 people will try heroin for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention created the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain- United States, 2016 on March 18, 2016, in order to help curtail the overprescribing of opioids by physicians through more physician education as well as better risk and assessment of patients; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice through United States Attorney General, Loretta E. Lynch, sent a letter to the governor of every state on September 20, 2016, requesting their help in addressing the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic by requesting their assistance in strengthening prescription drug monitoring programs and ensuring safe drug disposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, supports the combined efforts of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Justice in reducing the number of opioid prescriptions and ensuring safe drug disposal.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, hereby directs City staff to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

SECTION 3. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, directs the City Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution to the City Commissions of all cities in Broward County, Florida, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the Broward County League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities, Governor Rick Scott, the Broward County State Legislative Delegation, and the Broward County Federal Legislative Delegation.

SECTION 4. If any clause, section, other part or application of this Resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of January, 2017.

Mayor
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:

City Clerk
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI