

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council*

June 15, 2023

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Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

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## 23.338 An Order to Establish an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund

*WHEREAS*, state records show that 18,061 Massachusetts residents died of opioid related overdoses from 2009 through September 2021, and more than 68% of those people filled prescriptions for Schedule II opioids written by Massachusetts prescribers; and

*WHEREAS*, the state of Massachusetts has participated in a nationwide financial settlement with several companies, as part of historic legal efforts to demand abatement of the harms caused by the opioid epidemic, and

*WHEREAS*, Attorney General Healey announced \$46.3 billion under four different resolutions, which will provide \$921 million to the Commonwealth and its cities and towns for the prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services; and

*WHEREAS*, the City of Northampton has received \$239,024.44 from two sources, and will receive more funds from these sources, as well as several others, over the next 15 years for a total allocation of \$2,047,171; and

*WHEREAS*, the intention of the City is to listen to the voices of those people most affected by the opioid epidemic in deciding how to spend these funds within our community, following the direction of the Attorney General's Office; and

*WHEREAS*, the City's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will conduct surveys, focus groups and listening sessions with people who use drugs, their families and loved ones to guide the development of strategies aimed to help those people most impacted by the opioid epidemic; and

*WHEREAS*, the City is committed to addressing service disparities to increase access and equity in treatment and services for those with opioid use disorder and to ensure robust prevention and harm reduction efforts relating to opiates; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 § 5B provides that City Council may create a stabilization fund for any lawful purpose

*Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that*

Pursuant to Chapter 40, § 5B of the Mass. General Laws, the City Council hereby authorizes the creation of an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund for the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid-litigation settlement documents, a document prepared by the Substance Abuse Bureau of the Commonwealth's office of Health and Human Services Department, found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/Massachusetts-abatement-terms/download> entitled "Abatement Strategies", and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said §5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the city, and vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$239,024.44 which is equal to that received from opioid litigation settlements resulting from the city's participation in the national Opioid Multi-District Litigation into said Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund.