R-21- 163

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SETTLEMENT PARTICIPATION FORMS RELATED TO THE NATIONWIDE OPIOID CLASS ACTION LITIGATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2018, the North Little Rock City Council adopted Resolution No. 9341 approving and ratifying the City engaging in litigation as a member of the Municipal League Defense Program ("MLDP") against the entities and people responsible for the opioid epidemic in the United States of America and the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Attorney General has sent a notice to local political subdivisions of nationwide settlement agreements with McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen ("Distributors") and one manufacturer, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and its parent Company Johnson and Johnson (collectively, "Janssen") (see notice from Attorney General Leslie Rutledge attached hereto as Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Municipal League has recommended all cities and towns in the State of Arkansas sign on to these settlements (see email from Arkansas Municipal League General Counsel John Wilkerson attached hereto as Exhibit B); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to authorize the Mayor to execute the Settlement Participation Forms attached hereto as Exhibits C and D.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Settlement Participation Forms (substantially similar to Exhibits C and D) to participate in the nationwide settlement agreements with Janssen and the Distributors in the pending nationwide opioid class action litigation.

SECTION 2: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED: APPROVED:

_____ _____

Mayor Terry C. Hartwick

SPONSOR:

Terry C. Hartwick
By AF

Mayor Terry C. Hartwick

ATTEST:

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Amy Beckman Fields, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/ABF

FILED 10:35 A.M. ___ P.M.

By A. Fields

DATE 10-19-21

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector
North Little Rock, Arkansas

RECEIVED BY S. Ussery

ATTORNEY GENERAL
LESLIE RUTLEDGE
ARKANSASAG.GOV

TO LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS:
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT.
SUBDIVISIONS MUST SUBMIT SIGNED DOCUMENTATION TO PARTICIPATE.
THE DEADLINE FOR PARTICIPATION TO MAXIMIZE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS IS JANUARY 2, 2022.

If your subdivision is represented by an attorney with respect to opioid claims, please immediately contact them.

SETTLEMENT OVERVIEW

After years of negotiations, two proposed nationwide settlement agreements ("Settlements") have been reached that would resolve all opioid litigation brought by states and local political subdivisions against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors, McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen ("Distributors"), and one manufacturer, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and its parent company Johnson & Johnson (collectively, "Janssen").

The proposed Settlements require the Distributors and Janssen to pay billions of dollars to abate the opioid epidemic. Specifically, the Settlements require the Distributors to pay up to $21 billion over 18 years and Janssen to pay up to $5 billion over no more than 9 years, for a total of $26 billion (the "Settlement Amount"). Of the Settlement Amount, approximately $22.7 billion is earmarked for use by participating states and subdivisions to remediate and abate the impacts of the opioid crisis.

The Settlements also contain injunctive relief provisions governing the opioid marketing, sale and distribution practices at the heart of the states' and subdivisions' lawsuits and further require the Distributors to implement additional safeguards to prevent diversion of prescription opioids.

Each of the proposed Settlements has two key participation steps. First, each state decides whether to participate in the Settlements. Arkansas has joined both Settlements. Second, the subdivisions within each participating state must then decide whether to participate in the Settlements. Generally, the more subdivisions that participate, the greater the amount of funds that flow to that state and its participating subdivisions. Any subdivision that does not participate cannot directly share in any of the settlement funds, even if the subdivision's state is settling and other participating subdivisions are sharing in settlement funds.

This letter is part of the formal notice required by the Settlements.

WHY IS YOUR SUBDIVISION RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

You are receiving this letter because Arkansas has elected to participate in both of the two national Settlements against (1) the Distributors, and (2) Janssen, and your subdivision may participate in the Settlements to which your state has agreed. This notice is being sent directly to subdivisions and also to attorneys for subdivisions that we understand are litigating against these companies. If you are represented by an attorney with respect to opioid claims, please immediately contact them. Please note that there is no need for subdivisions to be represented by an attorney or to have filed a lawsuit to participate in the Settlements.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

This letter is intended to provide a brief overview of the Settlements. Detailed information about the Settlements may be found at: https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/. This national settlement website also includes links to information about how the Settlements are being implemented in your state and how settlement funds will be allocated within your state. This website will be supplemented as additional documents are created.

HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENTS?

You must go to the national settlement website to register to receive in the coming weeks and months the documentation your subdivision will need to participate in the Settlements (if your subdivision is eligible). All required documentation must be executed and submitted electronically through the website and must be executed using the "DocuSign" service. As part of the registration process, your subdivision will need to identify, and provide the email address for, the individual who will be authorized to sign formal and binding documents on behalf of your subdivision.

Your unique Subdivision Identification Number to use to register is: T5KQ8Q

HOW WILL SETTLEMENT FUNDS BE ALLOCATED IN EACH STATE?

The settlement funds are first divided among the participating states according to a formula developed by the Attorneys General that considers population and the severity of harm caused by the opioid epidemic in each participating state. Each state's share of the abatement funds is then further allocated within each state according to agreement between the state and its subdivisions, applicable state allocation legislation, or, in the absence of these, the default provisions in the agreements.

Many states have or are in the process of reaching an agreement on how to allocate abatement funds within the states. Allocation agreements/legislation and other information about Arkansas's allocation agreement or legislation can be found on the national settlement website. The allocation section of the website will be supplemented as more intra-state allocation arrangements are finalized.

In reviewing allocation information, please note that while all subdivisions may participate in the Settlements, not all subdivisions are eligible to receive direct payments. To promote efficiency in the use of abatement funds and avoid administratively burdensome disbursements that would be too small to add a meaningful abatement response, certain smaller subdivisions do not automatically receive a direct allocation. However, participation by such subdivisions will help maximize the amount of abatement funds being paid in the Settlements, including those going to counties, cities, parishes, and other larger subdivisions in their communities.

To determine your eligibility to receive, directly or indirectly, any of the funds allocated to your state should you elect to participate in the Settlements in which your state participates, you should first visit https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/ to determine if your state has entered into a state-subdivision agreement or has an allocation statute and/or a statutory trust. If so, then the terms of the state-subdivision agreement, allocation statute, and/or statutory trust (as applicable) will govern your eligibility to receive funds directly or indirectly from the share that is allocated to your state under the national settlement agreements. In some states there will be a proposed state-subdivision agreement that is in the process of being adopted by subdivisions. Any questions concerning the status or terms of the state-subdivision agreement, allocation statute, and/or statutory trust in your state, if applicable, can be directed to the Attorney General's Office.

You may be contacted by the Attorney General's Office with additional information regarding the allocation of settlement funds in Arkansas. Subdivisions with representation can expect information from their attorneys as well. We encourage you to review all materials and to follow up with any questions. The terms of these Settlements are complex and we want to be sure you have all the information you need to make your participation decision.

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE

A vast majority of states have joined the Settlements, and attorneys for many subdivisions have already announced support for them. For example, the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee, charged with leading the litigation on behalf of more than 3,000 cities, counties and others against the opioid industry, and consolidated in the national multi-district litigation ("MDL") pending before Judge Dan Aaron Polster in the Northern District of Ohio, recommends participation in these Settlements.

Subdivision participation is strongly encouraged, for the following reasons:

First, the amounts to be paid under the Settlements, while insufficient to abate the epidemic fully, will allow state and local governments to commence with meaningful change designed to curb opioid addiction, overdose and death;

Second, time is of the essence. The opioid epidemic continues to devastate communities around the country and it is critical that the funds begin to flow to allow governments to address the epidemic in their communities ***as soon as possible;***

Third, if there is not sufficient subdivision participation in these proposed Settlements, the Settlements will not be finalized, the important business practice changes will not be implemented, the billions of dollars in abatement funds will not flow to communities, and more than 3,000 cases may be sent back to their home courts for trial, which will take many years;

Fourth, the extent of participation also will determine how much money each state and its local subdivisions will receive because approximately half of the abatement funds are in the form of "incentive payments," *i.e.*, the higher the participation of subdivisions in a state, the greater the amount of settlement funds that flow into that state;

Fifth, you know first-hand the effects of the opioid epidemic on your community. Funds from these Settlements will be used to commence abatement of the crisis and provide relief to your citizens while litigation and settlement discussions proceed against numerous other defendants in the opioid industry; and

Sixth, because pills do not respect boundaries, the opioid epidemic is a national crisis that needs a national solution.

NEXT STEPS

These Settlements require that you take affirmative steps to "opt in" to the Settlements. If you do not act, you will not receive any settlement funds and you will not contribute to reaching the participation thresholds that will deliver the maximum amount of abatement funds to your state.

First, register your subdivision on the national settlement website so that information and documents required to participate can be sent to you. You will need the email address of the person who will be authorized to sign on behalf of your subdivision. This is the only action item needed at this time.

Second, have your authorizing person(s) or body begin to review the materials on the websites concerning the settlement agreement terms, allocation and other matters. Develop a list of questions for your counsel or the Attorney General's Office. In the very near future, your subdivision will need to begin the process of deciding whether to participate in the proposed Settlements, and subdivisions are encouraged to work through this process well before the January 2, 2022 deadline to be an initial participating subdivision. Again, the Attorney General's Office, your counsel, and other contacts within the state are available to discuss the specifics of the Settlements within your state, and we encourage you to discuss the terms and benefits of the Settlements with them.

Third, monitor your email for further communications, which will include a Participation Agreement, Release, (where applicable) a model Resolution, and instructions on executing and submitting electronically using DocuSign.

We urge you to view the national settlement website at your earliest convenience. Information and documents regarding the national Settlements and your state allocation can be found on the settlement website at https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/.

For further information, please contact:

Kate Donoven
Senior Assistant Attorney General
501-682-8114
Kate.Donoven@ArkansasAG.Gov

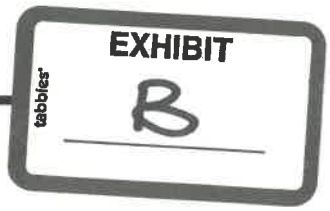
National Opioids Settlements
P.O. Box 43196
Providence, RI 02940-3196

NPD
347

1228100175 68

Postal Service: Please do not mark barcode
NPD BB-125-516
Honorable Terry Hartwick
PO Box 5757
North Little Rock, AR 72115

Fields, Amy



From: John Wilkerson <jwilkerson@arml.org>
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Fields, Amy
Subject: FW: Opioid Litigation Alert - Settlement Documents to Sign ASAP
Attachments: Janssen Settlement Participation Form.pdf; Distributors' Settlement Participation Form.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Oops, I said I would copy you and then it didn't happen. Sorry.

Here you go.

John

From: Sheila Boyd <sboyd@arml.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 3:59 PM
Cc: John Wilkerson <jwilkerson@arml.org>; Mary Caffee <MCaffee@arml.org>; Caran Curry <CCurry@arml.org>
Subject: Opioid Litigation Alert - Settlement Documents to Sign ASAP

Good afternoon everyone,

By now you have likely received a letter from Attorney General Leslie Rutledge concerning two proposed opioid litigation settlements – one with McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen ("the distributors") and the other with Johnson & Johnson. You've also likely seen messages from me on the listservs about these two settlements. As she states in her letter, the Attorney General has, on behalf of the State of Arkansas, signed-on to these two settlements. Now that she has, it is time for the cities, towns, and counties of Arkansas to decide whether to sign-on as well. **We (your "opioid litigation team" – Mark, Jerome, Colin, and me) strongly recommend you sign-on to these settlements; you can do so by signing the forms attached and emailing them back to me at jwilkerson@arml.org.** Many of our reasons for our recommendation to sign-on are contained in Attorney General Rutledge's letter. Below I've laid out some of the more important details of where we are and where we're headed. But again, we strongly encourage you to sign-on to these settlements; by doing so, we can ensure Arkansas has the resources necessary to fight the opioid epidemic.

You probably all know the strategy Don Zimmerman and Mark charted several years ago – to create a "United Arkansas" and bring the State, the counties, and the cities and towns of Arkansas together to fight the opioid epidemic together. This strategy would ensure Arkansas had a seat at the table as settlements were discussed. As you know, Governor Hutchinson and Attorney General Rutledge have agreed to join our efforts to fight the opioid epidemic and are now part of our "United Arkansas" strategy. With that agreement in hand, we are now ready to move to the next step. That next step is deciding whether to sign-on to

these two settlements, which will bring roughly $220 million dollars to Arkansas over the next several years. The State, the counties, and the cities & towns will collectively decide how best to use these settlement dollars.

However, to ensure Arkansas receives every dollar available, 100% of the counties, cities, and towns need to sign-on to this document. For every city or town that does not sign-on, there is that much less money coming to Arkansas. Plus, if we can show other opioid manufacturers that 100% of Arkansas's cities, towns, and counties are united, this will showcase our "United Arkansas" strategy and will certainly help in further negotiations and further litigation. We'll also need these forms back ASAP. While the formal deadline is January 2nd, we'll need these forms soon to help us showcase our unity as we head into the next stage – passing opioid legislation to help us best utilize the resources coming to Arkansas.

Speaking of future negotiations and future litigation, these two settlements are not the end. There are other defendants we've brought suit against, and whether those defendants will settle or whether we'll have to litigate for years to come is yet to be determined. But again, showing that 100% of Arkansas' cities and towns are united in these two settlements will ensure our voices are always heard.

As for the forms attached to this email, you'll see there are two. Both are titled "Exhibit K" and both are nearly identical. The only difference is that one is for the "Distributor Settlement" and one is for the "Janssen Settlement"; otherwise, they're the same. Your signature, as mayor, is necessary to execute these documents and thus sign-on to the settlements. Like I mentioned above, please send these forms back to me via email at jwilkerson@arml.org or fax me at (501) 537-7268 or mail at 301 W. 2nd Street, NLR 72115. (The AG's letter says you must sign these forms via "DocuSign"; however we've learned that will not be required. So, just send the forms to me; we'll handle the rest.) If you've already sent in your form, there's nothing more to do. We'll also be sending a hard mail out with this same message to ensure reaching all of our cities and towns.

I know that's a lot, but I also want to make sure you know as much as possible. If you have any questions about these settlements or these forms, please do not hesitate to call me.

All the best,

John

John L. Wilkerson
General Counsel
Arkansas Municipal League

Office: 501.978.6136
Cell: 501.554.6315

EXHIBIT K

Settlement Participation Form

Governmental Entity:	State:
Authorized Official:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

The governmental entity identified above ("Governmental Entity"), in order to obtain and in consideration for the benefits provided to the Governmental Entity pursuant to the Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021 ("Janssen Settlement"), and acting through the undersigned authorized official, hereby elects to participate in the Janssen Settlement, release all Released Claims against all Released Entities, and agrees as follows.

1. The Governmental Entity is aware of and has reviewed the Janssen Settlement, understands that all terms in this Election and Release have the meanings defined therein, and agrees that by this Election, the Governmental Entity elects to participate in the Janssen Settlement and become a Participating Subdivision as provided therein.

2. The Governmental Entity shall, within 14 days of the Reference Date and prior to the filing of the Consent Judgment, dismiss with prejudice any Released Claims that it has filed.

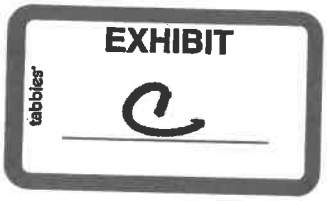
3. The Governmental Entity agrees to the terms of the Janssen Settlement pertaining to Subdivisions as defined therein.

4. By agreeing to the terms of the Janssen Settlement and becoming a Releasor, the Governmental Entity is entitled to the benefits provided therein, including, if applicable, monetary payments beginning after the Effective Date.

5. The Governmental Entity agrees to use any monies it receives through the Janssen Settlement solely for the purposes provided therein.

6. The Governmental Entity submits to the jurisdiction of the court in the Governmental Entity's state where the Consent Judgment is filed for purposes limited to that court's role as provided in, and for resolving disputes to the extent provided in, the Janssen Settlement.

7. The Governmental Entity has the right to enforce the Janssen Settlement as provided therein.



8. The Governmental Entity, as a Participating Subdivision, hereby becomes a Releasor for all purposes in the Janssen Settlement, including but not limited to all provisions of Section IV (Release), and along with all departments, agencies, divisions, boards, commissions, districts, instrumentalities of any kind and attorneys, and any person in their official capacity elected or appointed to serve any of the foregoing and any agency, person, or other entity claiming by or through any of the foregoing, and any other entity identified in the definition of Releasor, provides for a release to the fullest extent of its authority. As a Releasor, the Governmental Entity hereby absolutely, unconditionally, and irrevocably covenants not to bring, file, or claim, or to cause, assist or permit to be brought, filed, or claimed, or to otherwise seek to establish liability for any Released Claims against any Released Entity in any forum whatsoever. The releases provided for in the Janssen Settlement are intended by the Parties to be broad and shall be interpreted so as to give the Released Entities the broadest possible bar against any liability relating in any way to Released Claims and extend to the full extent of the power of the Governmental Entity to release claims. The Janssen Settlement shall be a complete bar to any Released Claim.

9. In connection with the releases provided for in the Janssen Settlement, each Governmental Entity expressly waives, releases, and forever discharges any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States or other jurisdiction, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

   > **General Release; extent.** A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

   A Releasor may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which it knows, believes, or assumes to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but each Governmental Entity hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles, releases and discharges, upon the Effective Date, any and all Released Claims that may exist as of such date but which Releasors do not know or suspect to exist, whether through ignorance, oversight, error, negligence or through no fault whatsoever, and which, if known, would materially affect the Governmental Entities' decision to participate in the Janssen Settlement.

10. Nothing herein is intended to modify in any way the terms of the Janssen Settlement, to which Governmental Entity hereby agrees. To the extent this Election and Release is interpreted differently from the Janssen Settlement in any respect, the Janssen Settlement controls.

I have all necessary power and authorization to execute this Election and Release on behalf of the Governmental Entity.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT K

Subdivision Settlement Participation Form

Governmental Entity:	State:
Authorized Official:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

The governmental entity identified above ("*Governmental Entity*"), in order to obtain and in consideration for the benefits provided to the Governmental Entity pursuant to the Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021 ("*Distributor Settlement*"), and acting through the undersigned authorized official, hereby elects to participate in the Distributor Settlement, release all Released Claims against all Released Entities, and agrees as follows.

1. The Governmental Entity is aware of and has reviewed the Distributor Settlement, understands that all terms in this Participation Form have the meanings defined therein, and agrees that by signing this Participation Form, the Governmental Entity elects to participate in the Distributor Settlement and become a Participating Subdivision as provided therein.

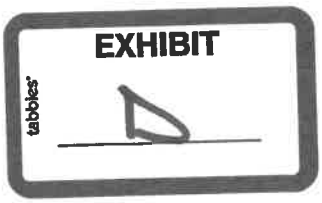
2. The Governmental Entity shall, within 14 days of the Reference Date and prior to the filing of the Consent Judgment, secure the dismissal with prejudice of any Released Claims that it has filed.

3. The Governmental Entity agrees to the terms of the Distributor Settlement pertaining to Subdivisions as defined therein.

4. By agreeing to the terms of the Distributor Settlement and becoming a Releasor, the Governmental Entity is entitled to the benefits provided therein, including, if applicable, monetary payments beginning after the Effective Date.

5. The Governmental Entity agrees to use any monies it receives through the Distributor Settlement solely for the purposes provided therein.

6. The Governmental Entity submits to the jurisdiction of the court in the Governmental Entity's state where the Consent Judgment is filed for purposes limited to that court's role as provided in, and for resolving disputes to the extent provided in, the Distributor Settlement. The Governmental Entity likewise agrees to arbitrate before the National Arbitration Panel as provided in, and for resolving disputes to the extent otherwise provided in, the Distributor Settlement.



7. The Governmental Entity has the right to enforce the Distributor Settlement as provided therein.

8. The Governmental Entity, as a Participating Subdivision, hereby becomes a Releasor for all purposes in the Distributor Settlement, including, but not limited to, all provisions of Part XI, and along with all departments, agencies, divisions, boards, commissions, districts, instrumentalities of any kind and attorneys, and any person in their official capacity elected or appointed to serve any of the foregoing and any agency, person, or other entity claiming by or through any of the foregoing, and any other entity identified in the definition of Releasor, provides for a release to the fullest extent of its authority. As a Releasor, the Governmental Entity hereby absolutely, unconditionally, and irrevocably covenants not to bring, file, or claim, or to cause, assist or permit to be brought, filed, or claimed, or to otherwise seek to establish liability for any Released Claims against any Released Entity in any forum whatsoever. The releases provided for in the Distributor Settlement are intended by the Parties to be broad and shall be interpreted so as to give the Released Entities the broadest possible bar against any liability relating in any way to Released Claims and extend to the full extent of the power of the Governmental Entity to release claims. The Distributor Settlement shall be a complete bar to any Released Claim.

9. The Governmental Entity hereby takes on all rights and obligations of a Participating Subdivision as set forth in the Distributor Settlement.

10. In connection with the releases provided for in the Distributor Settlement, each Governmental Entity expressly waives, releases, and forever discharges any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States or other jurisdiction, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

    > **General Release; extent.** A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, and that if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

    A Releasor may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which it knows, believes, or assumes to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but each Governmental Entity hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles, releases and discharges, upon the Effective Date, any and all Released Claims that may exist as of such date but which Releasors do not know or suspect to exist, whether through ignorance, oversight, error, negligence or through no fault whatsoever, and which, if known, would materially affect the Governmental Entities' decision to participate in the Distributor Settlement.

11. Nothing herein is intended to modify in any way the terms of the Distributor Settlement, to which Governmental Entity hereby agrees. To the extent this Participation Form is interpreted differently from the Distributor Settlement in any respect, the Distributor Settlement controls.

I have all necessary power and authorization to execute this Participation Form on behalf of the Governmental Entity.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____