

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION No. 2021-142

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENTS WITH JOHNSON & JOHNSON, MCKESSON, CARDINAL
HEALTH, AND AMERISOURCEBERGEN TO RESOLVE CLAIMS
INVOLVING THEIR ROLES IN THE COUNTRY'S OPIOID CRISIS**

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2021, Acting Attorney General Andrew J. Bruck announced that New Jersey intends to join nationwide settlement agreements with New Jersey based pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson and the United States' three largest pharmaceutical distributors - McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen - to resolve claims involving their roles in fomenting the country's opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, participation in the nationwide settlements will not only hold the companies financially accountable by requiring payments of as much as \$26 billion, the settlements will provide funding to support programs that address the opioid epidemic in New Jersey and across the country, and will require significant changes in the pharmaceutical industry aimed at preventing similar crises in the future; and

WHEREAS, participation by a significant number of states, county and municipal governments nationwide must agree to the proposed terms in order for the settlements to take effect; and

WHEREAS, provided enough states opt to participate in the settlements, their subdivisions (i.e. county and municipal governments) will have through January 2, 2022 to join; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Township and its residents to participate and join in the settlement agreements in order to hold these companies financially accountable for the ongoing opioid crisis and to implement the necessary changes to prevent such a crisis from happening again in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey that it hereby authorizes the Township Manager and the Township Clerk to sign any documents necessary in order to join the settlement agreements with Johnson & Johnson, McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen to resolve claims involving their participation in the opioid crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Office of The Attorney General and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2021.


JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK

