

**BOROUGH OF RED BANK
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH
RESOLUTION NO. 22-37**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH JOHNSON & JOHNSON, MCKESSON,
CARDINAL HEALTH, AND AMERISOURCEBERGEN TO RESOLVE CLAIMS INVOLVING
THEIR ROLES IN THE NATIONAL OPIOID CRISIS**

WHEREAS, the ongoing opioid crisis in America has had a devastating effect on individuals and communities, including the Borough of Red Bank, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey (the "Borough"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough is a member of a class action lawsuit filed by state, local, and tribal governments, hospitals, individuals, and insurers, seeking damages against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, Case No. 17-md-02804, MDL No. 2804, in the District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; and

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, the proposed settlements provide: "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;" 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 will have through January 26, 2022 to join; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's share in the settlement funds will ultimately depend on the number of counties and municipalities that opt-in, population of each participating county and municipality, and effects of the opioid epidemic on each participating community; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Borough 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 near future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Red Bank, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey that the Borough Administrator and/or Borough

Attorney are authorized 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon effectuation of the settlement agreement, the Borough agrees to release its claims against the settling parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, Borough Attorney, and the Office of the Attorney General of New Jersey.

	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilwoman Sturdivant					
Councilwoman Triggiano					
Councilman Ballard					
Councilman Yngstrom					
Councilman Zipprich					
Councilwoman Horgan					

Dated: January 26, 2022