

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF GUILFORD
APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN THE STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON PROCEEDS RELATING TO THE
SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION**

WHEREAS, as of 2019, the opioid epidemic had taken the lives of more than 16,500 North Carolinians, torn families apart, and ravaged communities from the mountains to the coast; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis has had, and continues to have, devastating impacts to Guilford County citizens and their families, as well as straining Guilford County local government resources; and

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and pharmaceutical distribution companies to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, local governments and the State of North Carolina anticipate a settlement in the national opioid litigation to be forthcoming. By signing onto the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the State and local governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, once a negotiation is finalized, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible.

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to provide for the equitable distribution of any proceeds from a settlement of the national opioid litigation to the State of North Carolina and to individual local governments; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Guilford County and its citizens, to sign onto the MOA and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid epidemic, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and this County to help abate the harm, and

WHEREAS, the MOA directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis. Guilford County will dedicate opioid settlement funds received to opioid treatment and remediation activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Guilford County hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation and any subsequent settlement funds that may come into North Carolina as a result of the opioid crisis. Furthermore, Guilford County hereby authorizes and directs staff to take such measures as are required to implement the terms of the MOA and receive the settlement funds, including that any additional documents needing signatures as a result of allocation of opioid settlement funds coming to North Carolina local governments may be authorized by the Guilford County Manager and Attorney, without requiring additional Board approval. Be it further resolved that copies of this Resolution and the signed MOA may be sent to opioiddocs@ncdoj.gov as well as forwarded to the N.C. Association of County Commissioners as requested.

Adopted this the _____ day of June, 2021.

Melvin “Skip” Alston, Chair
Guilford County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Robin Keller
Clerk to the Board (SEAL)