



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

RESOLUTION

R56 – 2020

Introduced by City Council and the Administration on May 13, 2020

Supports the Allentown Health Bureau plan to lead an opioid fatality review panel and process for reviewing opioid related deaths with the goal of preventing future addictions and loss of life as a result of overdoses.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the misuse of and addiction to opioids—including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl—is a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as our social and economic welfare; and

WHEREAS, based on the 2018 data, The National Institute on Drug Abuse shows that every day, 128 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services estimated 10.3 million people misused prescription opioids in 2018; and

WHEREAS, since 2015, Allentown EMS has handled just shy of 1500 opioid overdose calls; and

WHEREAS, the Allentown Health bureau plans to create a process to review opioid related deaths of those who reside in the City of Allentown like the Child Death Review process used in PA; and

WHEREAS, the bureau plans to lead the process and collaborate with subject matter experts and determine if there are commonalities, preventable factors and gaps in services, and advocate and take appropriate policies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council members of the City of Allentown hereby support and endorse the effort of the Allentown Health Bureau to establish an opioid fatality review panel and a process for reviewing opioid related deaths with the goal of preventing future addictions and loss of life as a result of overdoses of opioids.