

1 **..Title**

2 **Opioid and Illicit Substance Abuse Epidemic** - For the purpose of recognizing that nationwide
3 opioid and illicit substance abuse is an epidemic; supporting educational outreach; and promoting
4 the need for increased funding through Federal, State, and County Intervention Teams to aid in
5 combating the epidemic.

6 **..Body**

7 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
8 **City of Annapolis**

9
10 **Resolution 24-21**

11
12 **Introduced by: Alderwoman Tierney**

13 **Co-sponsored by: Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderman Gay,**
14 **Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Mayor Buckley,**
15 **Alderman Savidge**

16
17 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

18
19 **Opioid and Illicit Substance Abuse Epidemic**

20
21 **FOR** the purpose of recognizing the nationwide opioid and illicit substance abuse is an epidemic;
22 supporting educational outreach; and promoting the need for increased funding through
23 Federal, State, and County Intervention Teams to aid in combating the epidemic.

24
25
26 **WHEREAS,** an unprecedented opioid epidemic is ravaging our communities and others across
27 the United States.

28
29 **WHEREAS,** use of and addiction to opioids, alcohol and other illicit substances costs the nation
30 more than \$740 billion a year related to healthcare, crime, and lost productivity.

31
32 **WHEREAS,** Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency on March 1, 2017, in response to
33 the heroin, opioid, and fentanyl crisis and created an Opioid Operational Command
34 Center that emphasized a multidisciplinary, multiagency, incident management
35 structure to mobilize and coordinate state and local stakeholders.

36
37 **WHEREAS,** the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County have established a joint Opioid
38 Intervention Team to distribute funds to local jurisdictions and to combine and
39 maximize resources needed to reduce the harmful effects of substance use
40 disorders.

41
42 **WHEREAS,** the City of Annapolis formed a multi-disciplinary approach consisting of the Office
43 of Emergency Management, the Mayor's Office, the Police Department, the Fire
44 Department, the Department of Social Services, and private sector and non-profit
45 community and faith-based organizations.

46

1 **WHEREAS**, prior to 2020, Overdose Free (“ODFree”) Annapolis reported a decrease in
2 overdoses of 22.8% during 2018-2019, however, this trend was severely impacted
3 by the pandemic when overdoses increased by 22.2% during 2019-2021, and during
4 the calendar year of 2020 alone the City of Annapolis experienced a 120% increase
5 of fatal overdoses.
6

7 **WHEREAS**, according to provisional data released by the CDC's National Center for Health
8 Statistic (NCHS), more than 93,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2020,
9 which is a 29.4% increase from the 72,151 deaths that were projected for 2019.
10

11 **WHEREAS**, in response to the growing crisis, on July 13, 2021, President Joe Biden nominated
12 Dr. Rahul Gupta, also known as the “Drug Czar” to head the White House Office
13 of National Drug Control Policy.
14

15 **WHEREAS**, communities throughout America lack the resources needed to combat this public
16 health crisis that while adversely affecting communities of color, exacerbates racial
17 and economic inequities and diverts limited resources.
18

19 **WHEREAS**, opioid use disorders are life threatening, chronic medical conditions that destroy
20 lives.
21

22 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to increase education about and improve access to medications that
23 save lives by reversing overdoses and treatments that support recovery and to
24 provide outreach and education especially to children in an effort to break the cycle
25 of generational addiction within family units.
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the opioid epidemic affects our communities, devastates families, and overwhelms
28 our health care, social services, law enforcement, and judicial systems.
29

30 **WHEREAS**, all City of Annapolis public safety services (Police, Fire, and Emergency
31 Management) are responding to calls for assistance involving drug abuse and
32 overdoses in our community. The Annapolis Fire Department is averaging one call
33 a day involving a drug overdose, poison, or substance abuse, of which 42% are
34 suspected to involve opioids, and that percentage does not including unreported
35 cases prevented by Narcan.
36

37 **NOW, THEREFORE,**
38

39 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City of Annapolis
40 recognizes that the opioid crisis in our communities is an escalating crisis and should be the top
41 priority for increased funding through Federal, State, and County Intervention Teams to aid in
42 combating the epidemic.
43

44 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City
45 recognizes that opioid and illicit substance abuse is a disease and that continued Federal, State,
46 and County grants are essential to funding the City’s overwhelmed emergency response staff who

1 provide the life-saving services aimed at supporting prevention, access to treatment, enforcement,
2 education, and recovery.
3

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City
5 of Annapolis supports educational outreach especially to children in high-risk environments so
6 that the cycle of generational addiction is broken and child deaths caused by accidental ingestion
7 of illicit drugs is prevented.
8

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City
10 of Annapolis supports continued collaboration between all public safety officials, City
11 departments, and the Office of the Mayor toward the long-term strategy to end drug addiction and
12 overdoses through initiatives such as: the Office of Emergency Management’s “ODFree”
13 Annapolis; the Fire Department’s “Your Life Matters” program; the Office of the Mayor’s
14 “Naptown Anti-Dope Move[meant]”; and the Police Department’s “Substance Use Disorder
15 Program”.
16
17
18

19 EXPLANATION

20 Underlining indicates matter added.

21 [~~Strikethrough~~] indicates matter stricken.
22