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### **PRESS RELEASE**

# *Council Supports Mayor McCarthy's Action Against Opioid Industry*

*Mayor to Take Action to Recover Costs Resulting from Opioid Epidemic*

**SCHENECTADY** – On Monday night, the Schenectady City Council adopted a Resolution in support of Mayor Gary McCarthy entering into an action with Dreyer Boyajian LLP to recover costs resulting from the opioid epidemic. Mayor McCarthy has directed the City's Corporation Counsel to bring a lawsuit on behalf of the City against the opioid manufacturing and distribution industry.

“Opioid addiction and drug-related deaths have devastated families and communities all across the country,” Mayor McCarthy said. “This epidemic has placed significant burdens on municipal resources, including the City of Schenectady, overwhelming drug treatment centers and emergency responders.”

Municipalities throughout the country are filing lawsuits against the opioid manufacturing and distribution industry to recover significant costs they continue to incur. While counties were the first to initiate litigation in New York State, cities across the country have begun filing separate lawsuits against the opioid industry.

In 2017, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency due to the devastating number of overdoses and deaths resulting from opioids. According to a study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, the annual economic burden of prescription opioid abuse in the United States is over \$78 billion.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pubs/index.html>