

Press Release

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### **SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: Johnson & Johnson Issued Grand Jury Subpoenas in Opioid Suit**

According to a recent article in the New York Times, drugmakers Johnson & Johnson received grand jury subpoenas from the U.S. attorney's office of the Eastern District of New York related to opioid medication anti-diversion policies and procedures and the distribution of its opioid medications developed by its Janssen pharmaceuticals unit.

The company said in the filing it believes the investigation relates to monitoring and reporting programs by manufacturers and distributors of opioids under the Controlled Substances Act. Johnson & Johnson said it the subpoenas are part of a broader, industry-wide investigation and maintains its anti-diversion policies and procedures complied with the law.

Johnson & Johnson last week lowered its previously reported third-quarter profit to account for a proposed \$4 billion cash settlement related to the opioid crisis. That followed a Reuters report citing sources that drug distributors McKesson Corp, AmerisourceBergen Corp and Cardinal Health had offered to pay \$18billion in cash over 18 years, while J&J would pay \$4 billion in cash. The drug industry faces roughly 2,600 lawsuits brought by state and local governments, hospitals and other entities seeking to hold drug makers and distributors responsible for the toll of opioid abuse.

In August, an Oklahoma judge ordered J&J to pay \$572.1 million to the state for its part in fueling an opioid epidemic, a sum that was substantially less than investors had expected. In a landmark decision Johnson & Johnson was ordered to pay \$572 million for its role in the state's opioid crisis. In his ruling the Judge said the opioid crisis has "ravaged" the state of Oklahoma and that the defendants engaged in false and misleading marketing of both their drugs and opioids generally, and the law makes clear that such conduct is more than enough to serve as the act or omission necessary to establish the first element of Oklahoma's public nuisance law.

The New York Times is an American newspaper based in New York City with worldwide influence and readership. To read the full article in The New York Times please visit

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2019/10/28/business/28reuters-johnson-johnson-opioid-probe.html?searchResultPosition=2>

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled, "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on [www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition) or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at [www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org)

