

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: NY Attorney General Reaches Agreement Over Opioid Settlement Funds

New York Attorney General Lettitia James recently announced a 1.1 billion dollar agreement with opioid distributors, McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health Inc. and Amerisource Bergen Drug Corporation to combat the ongoing opioid epidemic. According to The New York Times, these companies played a large role in helping to fuel the opioid epidemic. The agreement will allocate payments over nine years, with substantial payments made upfront and will also require Johnson & Johnson (J & J) to pay \$30 million more in payments in the first year if the New York state executive chamber signs into law new legislation that creates an opioid settlement fund, and other criteria are met. If that legislation — which passed the state Legislature unanimously — becomes law and all litigating subdivisions within New York sign on to the settlement, New York would be eligible to receive more than half of total payments, or more than \$130 million, as soon as February 2022. The agreement also makes enforceable a bar stopping J&J and all of its subsidiaries, predecessors, and successors from manufacturing or selling opioids anywhere in New York, and acknowledges J & J's exit from the opioid business nationally.

“The opioid epidemic has wreaked havoc on countless communities across New York State and the rest of the nation, leaving millions still addicted to dangerous and deadly opioids,” said Attorney General James. “Johnson & Johnson helped fuel this fire, but today they’re committing to leaving the opioid business — not only in New York, but across the entire country”. Opioids will no longer be manufactured or sold in the United States by J&J. James stated that up to \$230 million will be allocated to fund opioid prevention, treatment, and education efforts across New York state. These funds will be used to prevent any future developments.

In March 2019, Attorney General James filed the nation’s most extensive lawsuit to hold accountable the various manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid epidemic. In addition to J&J, the manufacturers named in the complaint included Purdue Pharma and its affiliates, as well as members of the Sackler Family (owners of Purdue) and trusts they control; Mallinckrodt LLC and its affiliates; Endo Health Solutions and its affiliates; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. and its affiliates; and Allergan Finance, LLC and its affiliates. The distributors named in the complaint were McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health Inc., Amerisource Bergen Drug Corporation, and Rochester Drug Cooperative Inc.

The cases against Purdue Pharma (and subsequently the Sackler family), Mallinckrodt, and Rochester Drug Cooperative are all now moving separately through U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The trial against all other defendants is currently slated to begin this coming week.

The agreement would additionally resolve lawsuits against J&J by Nassau and Suffolk counties if the county legislatures approve it next month. In the meantime, Attorney General James plans to make a motion removing J&J from New York's upcoming opioid trial slated to begin this coming week.

The New York Times is an American daily newspaper based in New York City with a worldwide readership. For more information please visit www.nytimes.com.

The SAFE Glen Cove 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 or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at www.safeglencove.org.