

RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF WAKE AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND APPROVING THE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS

WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic has taken the lives of more than 37,000 North Carolinians since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid overdose crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, 219 Wake County residents lost their lives to an overdose in 2022, and countless others struggled with opioid use disorder; and

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, a settlement has been reached in litigation against the Kroger Co. (“Kroger”) as well as its subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors named in the Kroger Settlement; and

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Second Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF-2) to provide for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements; and

WHEREAS, by joining the settlements and approving the SAAF-2, the state and local governments maximize North Carolina’s share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Wake County and its residents, to sign onto the settlements and SAAF-2 and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and Wake county to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS, the SAAF-2 directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Wake County hereby authorizes the County Manager or County Attorney to execute all documents necessary to enter

into opioid settlement agreements with Kroger, to execute the SAAF-2, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator.

Adopted this the 8th day of July, 2024.

_____, Chair

_____ County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

[_____] Clerk to the Board

SEAL