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Shreveport may sue pharma companies over opioids

By Lex Talamo | November 27, 2017



(Photo: Lex Talamo)

"The lawsuit has not yet been filed," said City Attorney William Bradford. "But the resolution in council this week would allow the city to pursue that."

Edwards and the Louisiana Department of Health [sued opioid drug manufacturers](#) on Sept. 27. The department reported an average 110 prescriptions written for every 100 residents in the state in the past year.

More: [How to discard old pills in fight against opioids in Bossier-Caddo](#)

The lawsuit seeks damages equal to the amounts the state paid for excessive opioid prescriptions and treatment, according to a press release from the governor's office.

"These drug companies led prescribers to believe that opioids were not addictive and even suggested that treating physicians prescribe greater dosage units to those who had already become addicted," Edwards said in a written statement.



(Photo: Lex Talamo/The Times)

The City of Shreveport may soon take on Big Pharma, following a state trend that may have contributed to the state's soaring opioid use and addiction.

A resolution on the city council agenda this week would allow the city to join Gov. John Bel Edwards and Louisiana Department of Health in suing pharmaceutical companies for the "fraudulent and negligent marketing and distribution of opioids."

The Louisiana Attorney General has teamed up with Blue Cross Blue Shield and the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators to establish prescription pill drop boxes throughout the state.

The city council resolution requests a retainer agreement with the New York personal injury law firm [Napoli Shkolnik](#) — which describes itself as "dedicated to delivering justice for

victims of injuries and wrongs — and the New Orleans-based attorney Kenneth M. Carter to serve as outside legal council.

The attorneys would be hired on a contingency basis, in which they would receive 25 percent of any damages awarded.

The resolution, to be formally introduced on Tuesday, Nov. 28, will be up for final passage on Dec. 12.



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