



Mayor wants Rochester to join opioid lawsuit

By WHAM | March 3, 2019

Rochester, N.Y. — Rochester City Council will consider joining a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors to try to recoup costs associated with the drug epidemic.

Mayor Lovely Warren submitted legislation to members of the council last week asking them to authorize the city's corporation counsel to begin civil litigation against "opioid manufacturers, distributors and others who have promoted the abuse of opioids."

The city attorney would retain the New York City law firm Napoli Shkolnik at no cost to the city.

Dozens of municipalities across the country have taken similar legal action. In New York, Napoli Shkolnik is representing dozens of cities and counties in an effort to combat the "emotional and financial strain" opioids have cost communities, a statement on its website reads.

Last January, Monroe County joined a similar effort.

Seventy people overdosed - nine fatally - in January, according to the Monroe County Heroin Task Force. In 2018, there were 1,133 reported overdoses -166 of which were fatal.

City Council next meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19th.

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