

# Cheektowaga set to sue opioid drug manufacturers

By **Jim Herr** - March 30, 2018



CHEEKTOWAGA – The Town of Cheektowaga is following a national trend and will be filing a lawsuit against the manufacturers of opioid drugs because they say their negligence has led to the heroin epidemic.

The town says there is a connection between the overuse of opioid pain medication and the use of heroin as a cheaper alternative to opioid pain medication which has led to numerous overdoses and at least 40 deaths since 2015.

Town lawmakers say the drug manufacturers, distributors, and key opinion leaders have violated New York's General Business Law in creating this public health and safety crisis. The lawsuit will be filed by outside counsel Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC, and Gibson, McAskill, & Crosby. Both firms are experts in handling mass tort, class action, and major product liability claims.

"Amherst just did it, Niagara County, and certainly municipalities all across the county are joining this movement for sure," said Town Attorney John M.

Dudziak. "Obviously the end result of litigation is monetary damages, but I don't think that is the objective. It's more of holding these companies responsible for possibly what they know could be addictive and dangerous drugs that are out there and killing people."

The plan is to file the lawsuit independent of any class action claim.

"I hope the pharmaceutical reps realize that we're not messing around anymore. Enough young lives have been taken," said Councilmember Christine Adamczyk.

Her son [Daniel Adamczyk died from an overdose of Fentanyl last year](#). He was working for Rural Metro Ambulance when a suspect running from the Buffalo Police pushed him down a flight of stairs injuring his back. Ms. Adamczyk says instead of surgery her son turned to pain management care through Gosity & Associates. She said Dr. Eugene Gosity prescribed Danny pain pills, sleeping pills, and anti-depression pills – then cut him off when he appeared addicted.

Her words to the pharmaceutical companies. "My child took your drugs – your pills – until pain management said 'now you're hooked on it, I'm not going to give it to you anymore,'" said Ms. Adamczyk. "I hope to see the pharmaceuticals start paying the price and stop giving out all these drugs to the doctors and I hope down the road the doctors stop writing so many prescriptions and that these young people stop taking their lives."