

## **Keene clarifies that opioid crisis costs are in the hundreds of thousands**

By Paul Cuno-Booth, Sentinel Staff | Apr 18, 2018

Keene is not, in fact, claiming that the opioid crisis has cost the city millions of dollars per year. The correct estimate is in the hundreds of thousands, City Attorney Thomas P. Mullins said Wednesday.

The Sentinel reported last week that the city, in a lawsuit against drug manufacturers and distributors, said it “has been required to spend millions of dollars each year to combat the public nuisance created by Defendants’ deceptive marketing campaign.”

The case is one of hundreds of such lawsuits filed by state and local governments. The firms representing Keene, Nixon Vogelmann Slawsky & Simoneau and Napoli Shkolnik, drafted the city’s complaint. They have filed nearly identical suits on behalf of Manchester and Nashua.

Mullins said that for Keene’s case, the firms worked from a standard complaint. He read over the document before it was filed, but said he must have missed the reference to “millions of dollars,” which came on page 25 of a 255-page document.

Mullins arrived at the rough cost estimate after talking to other city officials, including in the fire and police departments, he said. There has not been a formal calculation of all of the costs.

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