

Portland files lawsuit against opioid manufacturers

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PORTLAND (WGME) -- The City of Portland said it filed a lawsuit against the manufacturers and distributors of opioids in response to the growing opioid epidemic in the city.

Jessica Grondin, Director of Communications for the City of

Portland, said officials filed the lawsuit in Cumberland County Superior Court. It seeks to address the huge community, health, and wellness impact the opioid epidemic has had on the city.

The defendants include Purdue Pharmaceuticals and its affiliates, Cephalon, Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals and its affiliates, Endo Pharmaceuticals and its affiliates, Actavis and its affiliates, Watson Laboratories, Mallinckrodt, McKesson, Cardinal Health, Amerisourcebergen, and various doctors involved in the distribution of these drugs.

The city is represented by local counsel Trafton, Matzen, Belleau and Frenette of Auburn and Napoli Shkolnik of New York, New York, who also represents many other municipalities in several similar suits across the country, according to Grondin.

Grondin said the lawsuit will not cost the city money.

Portland officials are holding a press conference at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at Milestone Recovery to provide more information.

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