

**RESOLUTION BY THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS WITH SIX REMNANT  
DEFENDANTS**

**WHEREAS**, more than 41,500 North Carolinians lost their lives to a drug overdose from 2000-2023;

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States to be \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement;

**WHEREAS**, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid companies, manufacturers, pharmaceutical distributors, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct;

**WHEREAS**, a new national opioid settlement (“Six Remnant Defendants Settlement”) has been reached with six regional distributors/dispenser defendants: Associated Pharmacies, Inc. (and American Associated Pharmacies); J M Smith Corporation; Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; Morris and Dickson Co.; North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; and United Natural Foods, Inc. (including its subsidiaries SuperValu and Advantage Logistics) (each individually, a “Remnant Defendant,” and, collectively, the “Six Remnant Defendants”);

**WHEREAS**, the Six Remnant Defendants are expected to pay a total of \$720 million to settle opioid claims across the nation. The settlement would be subject in North Carolina to the equitable distribution of the proceeds as set forth in the settlement agreements;

**WHEREAS** Union County is expected to receive an amount pursuant to the allocation set forth in Exhibit E of the Settlement Agreement among Participating Subdivisions and Remnant Defendants;

**WHEREAS** by joining the Six Remnant Defendants Settlement, local governments maximize North Carolina’s share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible;

**WHEREAS** it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Union County, to sign onto the Six Remnant Defendants Settlement, in order to demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in Union County to help abate the harm;

**WHEREAS**, the Six Remnant Defendants settlement is not governed by the North Carolina Memorandum of Agreement between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation (“NC MOA”);

consequently, any funds received from the Six Remnant Defendants settlement shall be placed in a separate fund from settlements governed by the NC MOA;

**WHEREAS**, although the Six Remnant Defendants settlement is not governed by the NC MOA, any funds received from the Six Remnant Defendants settlement shall be used for opioid abatement strategies as outlined in Exhibit D of the Settlement Agreement among Participating Subdivisions and Remnant Defendants;

**WHEREAS**, these and past opioid settlements direct substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to execute the necessary documents to enter into opioid settlement agreements, as set forth herein with the Six Remnant Defendants, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator, subject to a pre-audit certificate thereon by the County's Chief Financial Officer, if applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney's Office.

Adopted this 20 day of April 2026.

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Brian Helms, Chair  
Union County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board

**SEAL**