

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 156

Approved April 9, 2014

WHEREAS, As of March 27th, more than seventy Rhode Islanders have died this calendar year in drug-related overdoses; and

WHEREAS, 22 Rhode Islanders died from overdoses in just the first two weeks of 2014, 13 of whom had taken the powerful opiate fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, According to Dr. Michael Fine, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, the rate of overdose deaths in Rhode Island has doubled since last year; and

WHEREAS, Accidental drug overdoses are now the most common cause of death for Americans aged 25 to 64, surpassing even traffic deaths; and

WHEREAS, While this is a national issue, the problem is especially pressing in Rhode Island, where the number of hospitalizations and emergency room visits for overdoses have steadily increased since 2005, according to Health Department data; and

WHEREAS, According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), every year for the past decade, Rhode Island has been among the top five states nationally for illicit drug use among residents ages 12 and older; and

WHEREAS, Naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan, is a that medicine can immediately reverse an opiate overdose and prevent overdose death; and

WHEREAS, In June 2013, the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime and the World Health Organization issued a report supporting making naloxone available to first responders, including both police officers and fire fighters; and

WHEREAS, Both the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association have policies supporting wider availability of naloxone; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Quincy, Massachusetts became the first municipality in the country to outfit police officers with naloxone; and

WHEREAS, As of October 2013, Quincy police officers have saved 188 lives by administering naloxone; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Quincy program has led numerous police departments around the nation, including the Rhode Island State Police and Boston Police Department, to require all police vehicles to carry doses of naloxone; and

WHEREAS, As public servants, the City Council and the Providence Police Department have a moral obligation to protect the people of Providence and to prevent further loss of life from drug related overdoses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby request that all Providence Police officers be outfitted with doses of naloxone and be trained in its proper administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Chief of Police and Commissioner of Public Safety.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 03 2014

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


ACTING CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 4/9/14