

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-4983

COUNCIL SPONSOR: BLANCHARD/BRISTER PROVIDED BY: LEGAL DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO OBTAIN SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR OPIOID-RELATED COST RECOVERY CLAIMS.

WHEREAS, opioid use and crimes related thereto have become a huge societal problem locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Government is implementing its Safe Haven Project which will provide the continuum of care for behavioral health treatment services including treatment for addiction; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments are attempting to recover costs associated with this opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany, in the past few years, has experienced nearly the highest rate of opioid deaths statewide;

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish should attempt to recover its costs associated with this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Section 4-03(B) of the St. Tammany Parish Home Rule Charter authorizes Parish Government to retain special legal counsel upon approval by the St. Tammany Parish Council; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Government recommends the appointment of E. John Litchfield, Berrigan Litchfield LLC, Walter J. Leger, Jr., Leger & Shaw, and Ross F. Lagarde, Ross F. Lagarde APLC, and associated attorneys and paralegals. E. John Litchfield, Berrigan Litchfield LLC, Walter J. Leger, Jr., Leger & Shaw, and Ross F. Lagarde, Ross F. Lagarde APLC are experienced attorneys with the requisite expertise to render special counsel services and represent Parish Government regarding opioid litigation.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that a necessity exists for the employment of special counsel in this matter, and, pursuant to Section 4-03(B) of the St. Tammany Parish Home Rule Charter, the St. Tammany Parish Council hereby authorizes, ratifies and approves the employment of E. John Litchfield, Berrigan Litchfield LLC, Walter J. Leger, Jr., Leger & Shaw, and Ross F. Lagarde, Ross F. Lagarde APLC, and associated attorneys and paralegals, as special counsel for St. Tammany Parish Government in the above described matters and to take any and all actions necessary to pursue any right or claim of St. Tammany Parish Government related to the opioid crisis and litigation. The compensation authorized to be paid shall be on a contingency basis through a retainer agreement.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 3 DAY OF MAY, 2018, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

S. MICHELE BLANCHARD, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK

Resolution Administrative Comment

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO OBTAIN SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR OPIOID-RELATED COST RECOVERY CLAIMS.

St. Tammany Parish Government recognizes the necessity to retain special counsel to handle litigation to recover costs due to and/or associated with opioid addiction and abuse.