



**LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
September 26, 2023
Council Meeting Room
Luzerne County Courthouse
200 N. River Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
AND
Video/Teleconference via ZOOM**

5:45 PM CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE Creating a Committee on Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Council on the matter listed on the Agenda. Each speaker shall have three (3) minutes to address Council. Speakers may not yield or transfer their time to another speaker.

Those attending in person are asked to complete and submit a Speaker Card to the Clerk of Council before the first speaker is called.

Those attending virtually are asked to refer to the Public Meetings Online page of County's Website at <https://www.luzernecounty.org/1279/Public-Meetings-Online> for more information on how to participate in Public Comment via technology.

ADJOURNMENT

ORDINANCE

No. 2023-_____

***An Ordinance of County Council for the County of Luzerne
Creating a Committee on Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement***

WHEREAS, in 2017, Luzerne County Council recognized that there existed a serious public health and safety crisis involving opioid abuse, addiction, treatment, morbidity and mortality in Luzerne County; and

WHEREAS, the Luzerne County Manager recommended the initiation of litigation in this regard and Luzerne County Council agreed that the initiation of such litigation was appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Brown Rudnick LLP, as co-lead counsel for the Plaintiff Executive Committee, issued an opinion and recommendation to governmental entities regarding said vote on Mallinckrodt's bankruptcy reorganization plan which incorporates a proposed settlement agreement for the opioid litigation; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County Council agreed to the settlement terms of the litigation; and

WHEREAS, Section 8.01 of the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter of Luzerne County ("Charter") states that there shall be such authorities, boards, and commissions as may be established from time to time by the Home Rule Charter, the Administrative Code, County Council, or applicable law; and

WHEREAS, Section 8.01 of the Home Rule Charter also states that any new board or commission established by County Council shall be by ordinance;

WHEREAS, Section 2.10.F. of the Luzerne County Administrative Code states that County Council shall create or abolish boards and commissions as it deems necessary, within the provisions of the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County Council desires to create a committee to identify the best uses for opioid litigation proceeds in order to assist the affected citizens and law enforcement agencies of Luzerne County in their battle against illegal drug trafficking, opioid misuse and addiction; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Committee on Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement (the "Committee") will be to identify programs, agencies and functions in the best position to utilize the settlement proceeds from the opioid litigation in the fight against the illegal trafficking of controlled substances and ensuing drug addiction and drug addiction related crime and recommend distribution of funds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL, the Committee on Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement shall hereby be created subject to the terms of the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code, and internal rules adopted by the Committee for the purpose of carrying out any and all functions necessary to fulfill the goals of the Committee.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, the Committee shall be comprised of the Luzerne County District Attorney, the Director of Luzerne County Drug and Alcohol, the Human Services Division Head, the Correctional Services Division Head, the Luzerne County Manager, one member of Luzerne County Council and one Luzerne County citizen.

This Ordinance shall take effect on the fifteenth (15th) day following its enactment.

Enacted by County Council the ____ day of _____, 2023.

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Sharon Lawrence,
Clerk to County Council

Kendra Vough, Chair

John Lombardo, Vice-Chair