



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2022

ST. CHARLES COUNTY TO BENEFIT FROM NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENT WITH OPIOID MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – St. Charles County will receive a gross allocation of \$19.6 million in a nationwide settlement of lawsuits against companies that manufactured and distributed opioids. Once final, this community-led effort will secure billions of dollars in opioid epidemic relief resources nationwide, of which Missouri and its counties and cities will receive hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 18 years.

“This is a milestone moment,” says St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann. “There has been both a human and financial cost to this opioid crisis, and these funds will go toward community programs with proven track records of supporting recovery efforts here in St. Charles County and throughout the state.”

While this is a major moment in the fight against opioid abuse and misuse, it is just the start, according to Ehlmann. St. Charles County has cases against other defendants in the opioid industry and will continue the tireless pursuit for justice and accountability on behalf of our residents and those statewide impacted by the opioid epidemic.

Statistics from the Office of the Regional Medical Examiner show there were 426 opiate-related deaths in St. Charles County from 2017-2020. Ehlmann says the epidemic has cost taxpayers millions through increases in jail population and related costs; opioid-related crime including patrolling and overtime; NARCAN funding; 911 calls; and the number of cases in the Prosecuting Attorney’s office.

St. Charles County filed a lawsuit in August 2018 following other jurisdictions in Missouri and around the country. Several of the companies being sued negotiated with Attorneys General across the country to have the settlements funneled through the states, rather than each jurisdiction.

-end-

Media Contact: Mary Enger, Communications Director, 636-949-1856, or 636-443-1008, menger@sccmo.org

About St. Charles County:

St. Charles County, Missouri, founded in 1812, is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri. With a population of 405,262, it is the state’s third largest county. It is home to 21 scenic county parks of which four are in reserve, encompassing 4,151 acres.

With one of the largest economies in the state, St. Charles County is home to multinational companies including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government has more than 1,170 employees in more than 30 departments and offices who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit sccmo.org.