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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor of Warren Outlines Thoughtful Approach to Opioid Settlement Funding

Warren, MI (Oct. 22, 2025) - As of today, the City of Warren has received \$2,729,921.36 in opioid settlement funds. These funds have already accrued an additional \$167,536.34 in interest, bringing the total amount currently held by the City to \$2,897,457.70. In addition, Warren has signed on to opioid manufacturers settlement and anticipates receiving additional dollars in the future.

Mayor Lori M. Stone emphasized the importance of a careful, deliberate approach to managing these critical funds.

"I recognize how quickly one-time funding can disappear. There are those who are anxious to push dollars out without fully considering community needs, process, best practices, or long-term impact," said Mayor Stone. "Opioid use, substance use disorder, and addiction will continuously affect our community my goal is to find a way of generating continuous revenue that can be dedicated to addressing these ongoing needs."

Building on her experience in the state legislature, Mayor Stone emphasized the value of thoughtful, research-driven decision-making.

"One of the most important lessons I learned in Lansing is that you must do your homework first," said Mayor Stone. "Warren now has an opportunity to do something truly transformative—a long-term funding endowment that supports those impacted by the opioid crisis for generations to come."

Mayor Stone pointed to the State of Florida as a successful model, where tobacco settlement funds were placed into an endowment. Florida continues to fund initiatives using only the interest earned, preserving the principal indefinitely.

"Because Warren has exercised restraint and not immediately spent down our opioid settlement dollars, we are in a strong position to adopt a similar model," she explained.

I am also committed to aligning with federal guidelines, which prioritize data-driven strategies and intentional investments that reflect real community needs.

“We have the advantage of learning from what other communities have done well,” said Mayor Stone. “My office is reviewing best practices to ensure that our process is both equitable and transparent. The City of Kalamazoo, for example, offers a strong model of community-driven planning that we’re studying.”

Mayor Stone concluded with a reminder of the importance of financial stewardship: “Once these one-time dollars are gone, they’re gone. We have a responsibility to make these funds work not just for today, but for the future. The people of Warren—especially those directly affected by the opioid epidemic—deserve no less.”

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