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City of Columbus Joins Settlement Agreement in Lawsuit Against Major Opioid Distributors *Columbus Agrees to “OneOhio” Framework with Ohio Communities to Unlock Settlement Funds*

COLUMBUS, OH—Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that the City of Columbus has formally agreed to participate in the “OneOhio” settlement agreement, a statewide effort for cities banding together to resolve the years-long litigation with the three largest opioid distributors: Cardinal Health, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen.

“The opioid crisis is worsening, and Ohioans need help now,” said City Attorney Zach Klein. **“No amount would replace the lives lost to this epidemic, but banding together with other communities across the state will allow us to secure the critical resources we need to continue battling this crisis here in Columbus.”**

Under the settlement terms, the three distributors would pay the state of Ohio approximately \$809 million, which would be directed to treatment and prevention programs that are proven to effectively and efficiently mitigate the opioid crisis locally in our neighborhoods.

“While there is no amount of money that will heal those who lost a loved one to addiction, this settlement will help us get more people into treatment and increase prevention efforts,” said Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. **“I look forward to a collaborative use of these funds to help our region recover from the trauma that the over-prescription of opioids caused our community.”**

If 95% of Ohio communities opt-in to the deal, those funds will become available to meet the pressing needs for relief from the opioid crisis. As part of the agreement, distributors will undergo mandated industry reforms to prevent further harm to our communities.

The deadline for Ohio communities to opt-in to the agreement is tomorrow, Friday, August 13, 2021.

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