

1 Sponsored by: Councilmembers Pam Roach, Connie Ladenburg, Dan Roach, Derek Young,
2 Rick Talbert, Jim McCune, and Douglas G. Richardson
3 Requested by: Pierce County Council
4
5
6

7 **RESOLUTION NO. R2017-113**

8 9 10 **A Resolution of the Pierce County Council Declaring a State of Opioid** 11 **Crisis in Pierce County.** 12 13

14 **Whereas**, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention characterized opioid
15 abuse in the United States as a public health epidemic, noting Washington as the only
16 Western state to see a statistically significant increase in drug overdose death rates
17 between 2014-2015; and
18

19 **Whereas**, on October 7, 2016, Governor Jay Inslee issued Executive Order
20 16-09, stating “the opioid epidemic continues to affect communities, devastate families,
21 and overwhelm law enforcement, health care, and social service providers” and “it is
22 imperative that we act in a comprehensive manner to address this public health crisis.”;
23 and
24

25 **Whereas**, on March 29, 2017, President Donald Trump issued an Executive
26 Order establishing the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the
27 Opioid Crisis, which has issued an interim report recommending the declaration of a
28 national emergency; and
29

30 **Whereas**, Pierce County has not been immune to this national crisis; and
31

32 **Whereas**, a February 23, 2017 report *Opioid Trends in Pierce County* by Dr.
33 Caleb Banta-Green and Dr. Jason Williams provides that from 2011 to 2015, Pierce
34 County experienced a rate of 10.2 opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 residents,
35 compared to the Washington state average of 9.8 per 100,000; and
36

37 **Whereas**, the Banta-Green/Williams report further provides that treatment
38 admissions for prescription opioids and heroin have more than doubled since 2007, and
39 first time admissions for treatment of any opioid have spiked amongst 18 to 29 year-
40 olds, increasing from 18% of total first time admission in 2002 to 58% in 2015; and
41

42 **Whereas**, a May 5, 2017, report *Fentanyl Overdose Deaths in Washington State*
43 by Mamadou Ndiaye of the Washington State Department of Health provides that
44 fentanyl-related drug overdose deaths in Washington State increase 58% in one year,
45 from 28 confirmed cases in 2015 to 70 in 2016, with six of these deaths being in Pierce
46 County; and
47



1 **Whereas**, the Pierce County Council deems it appropriate and necessary to
2 declare a state of opioid crisis; **Now Therefore**,

3
4 **BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Pierce County:**

5
6 Section 1. The Pierce County Council declares Pierce County in a state of opioid
7 crisis.

8
9 **ADOPTED this** 31st **day of** October, 2017.

10
11 **ATTEST:**

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL
Pierce County, Washington

12
13
14 Denise D. Johnson

15
16 **Denise D. Johnson**
17 Clerk of the Council

Douglas G. Richardson

Douglas G. Richardson
Council Chair

