

# Council Communication

## December 1, 2015, Business Meeting

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### Ashland Police Department Launch of Drug Amnesty/Treatment Center Placement Program

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**FROM:**

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**SUMMARY**

The Ashland Police Department is poised to launch a new program that will help facilitate the destruction of illegal drugs as well as the placement of addicted individuals in treatment facilities.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

In 2013 over 8,000 people in the United States died as a result of heroin overdoses (OD). In addition, almost 16,000 died as a result of opioid OD, and an additional 12,000 from cocaine and benzodiazepine OD. (Benzodiazepines are psychoactive drugs that address problems such as anxiety, insomnia, seizures and other issues.) In 2013 three members of the Ashland community died from heroin OD, and in 2014 Ashland Fire & Rescue responded to 42 calls of citizens suffering an OD.

In an attempt to better protect the lives of all members of the community, the APD recently began issuing naloxone to its officers. Naloxone allows first responders to immediately counteract an opioid OD and gives the patient a much better chance of survival. Of the 42 calls for OD that AFR responded to in 2014 18 resulted in the delivery of naloxone.

The APD intends to offer another progressive, and potentially life changing and life saving option to members of its community to further safeguard against OD and drug dependence in general. APD intends to launch a drug amnesty and treatment program, modeled after the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI). This model allows for two adjustments to police policy and operations: first, it allows anyone to turn in any quantity of drugs, to the APD, with no questions asked and no sanctions; second, it allows members of the APD to immediately facilitate the placement of the citizen in an addiction treatment facility. This piece will be accomplished through a partnership with On Track, a local non-profit that specializes in such services. These two parts of the program can be accessed independent of each other, or in combination with each other.

APD will be the first department in the state to adopt such a program, and the 41<sup>st</sup> in the country.

**COUNCIL GOALS SUPPORTED:**

23. Support innovative programs that protect the community.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This program has no fiscal impact on the City.



**STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:**

Council does not need to take action on this item.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

No motion is needed.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

