



Date: October 11, 2017

To: Members of the Public Safety Committee

From: Chair Suzie Price, Third District

Subject: Naloxone Access

INTRODUCTION:

Naloxone also known by a brand name Narcan, is an opiate antidote that stops opioid overdoses when they are occurring. Opioids include heroin and prescription pain-killers like morphine, codeine, oxycodone, methadone, fentanyl, Percocet, Demerol, and Vicodin. When a person experiences an opioid overdose breathing can slow down or stop making it impossible to wake them from this state. Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids while reversing an overdose,¹ and it is available without a prescription in California due to AB 1535.²

Many cities throughout the country have begun carrying this product because of its effectiveness as well as its simplicity to administer through a nasal spray,^{3,4,5} as well as the benefits to officers and drug sniffing dogs potentially exposed to life-threatening drugs such as fentanyl.⁶ After a dose the person should begin to breathe more normally and it becomes easier to wake them. Administering Naloxone can be very important when quickly given to a person experiencing an overdose, because brain damage can occur within only a few minutes of an opioid overdose. Naloxone provides a window of opportunity to save a life by providing extra time for emergency medical assistance to arrive. This chemical cannot be used to get a person high, and has no effect on someone not experiencing an overdose. Additionally, it has been developed into a nasal spray making application and training even easier.

As opioid abuse and overdoses with illegal as well as prescription drugs continue to grow, the risks of death also increase and have been seen throughout the country. The number of opioid overdose deaths have been growing rapidly surpassing the number of deaths

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6106a1.htm>

² http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/naloxone_media_release.pdf

³http://sheriff.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/lasd/media/detail?current=true&urile=wcm:path:/lasd+content/lasd+site/home/home+top+stories/narcan+06_15_2017

⁴<http://www.ocregister.com/2015/10/21/sheriffs-deputies-in-4-oc-cities-now-carrying-kits-to-combat-drug-overdoses/>

⁵<http://spdblotter.seattle.gov/2017/03/01/downtown-officers-use-naloxone-to-revive-16th-person-from-overdose/>

⁶<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/article161547033.html>



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experienced at its peak by H.I.V. crisis peak in 1995, the peak number of gun deaths in 1993, and peak car crash deaths in 1972. Opioid overdose deaths have surpassed 60,000 annual deaths.⁷ This issue has reached the epidemic level and it is essential that the city have the necessary information on how best to confront this pressing issue.

RECOMMENDATION:

Update on Fire Department use of Naloxone and report from the Police Department on the feasibility of allowing Police and other city staff likely to encounter an overdose (library staff,^{8,9,10} Multi-Service Center staff, and/or Lifeguards) to carry and administer Naloxone products in order to reduce overdose deaths.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is not a significant financial impact as a result of the recommended report.

⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/06/05/upshot/opioid-epidemic-drug-overdose-deaths-are-rising-faster-than-ever.html>

⁸ <http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/23/health/opioid-overdose-library-narcan/index.html>

⁹ <http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/SF-library-workers-may-get-training-save-heroin-11011927.php>

¹⁰ <http://fox13now.com/2017/06/28/salt-lake-county-librarians-trained-to-administer-drug-that-can-reverse-overdose/>