

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-03 OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKHANNON

WHEREAS, there is currently a national, statewide, and Buckhannon-Upshur community drug epidemic, with the State of West Virginia suffering more fatalities by drug overdose per capita of any state in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, all of the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Society of Addiction Medicine, West Virginia University Medicine, the State of West Virginia's Board of Medicine, the State of West Virginia, and the United States of America (see U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health, November 2016), have identified drug addiction as a disease; and,

WHEREAS, currently there are more people incarcerated in the U.S. per capita than any nation on Earth with more than 2.3 million people being detained in jails in the U.S., more than 20% of them imprisoned for drug offenses, or about a half million of our American citizens being incarcerated because of drug related offenses; and,

WHEREAS, many more millions of people in the U.S. are prisoners in different ways- captives to a drug addiction lifestyle and mindset that deny our society of their talents, intellect, and contributions they would otherwise be offering; and,

WHEREAS, there are 23.5 million drug addicts in the U.S. today, with that number growing daily, i.e., drug addiction is not on the decline, but on the rise with one in every 10 Americans over the age of 12 being a drug addict; and,

WHEREAS, only eleven percent of U.S. drug addicts end up receiving treatment while more than 50,000 people will die in the U.S. this year alone from drug overdose as more people die from drug overdose in the U.S. now than from automobile accidents or guns; and,

WHEREAS, we have many drug addicts in our Buckhannon-Upshur community and already have lost many of our young citizens as fatalities to drug overdose; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Buckhannon shall henceforth be committed to pursuing holistic methods to better address our current drug epidemic given the many failings of the past during the national, 46-year long "War on Drugs" while partnering with professionals throughout our community, region, and State to improve the quality of life for all afflicted by drug addiction while addressing all problems of drug addicts and the members of their support networks in a supportive, compassionate, and respectful manner; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Buckhannon desires to strongly manifest our City's endorsement and support for implementation of a holistic plan to address our drug epidemic while battling the disease of drug addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKHANNON, AS FOLLOWS:

(1) That the City Council hereby formally and in all respects endorses and affirms the nearly universal findings of professionals and governmental entities alike that drug addiction is in fact a disease;

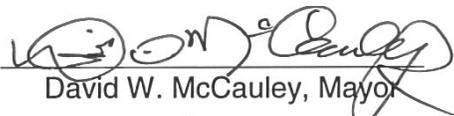
(2) That all departments and employees of the City of Buckhannon shall recognize this resolution as the formal policy position of the City of Buckhannon and further shall support and abide by the findings and provisions hereof as our City develops its holistic plan to battle our community's drug epidemic;

(3) That the Council supports the collaboration of the members of the Community Healthcare Initiatives & Drug Combat Committee, and the anticipated partnerships with WVU Medicine, Community Care, Opportunity House, local physicians, counselors, healthcare providers, and other agencies;

(4) That this Resolution, or a copy thereof, may be provided to any and all persons or entities, including but not limited to grant program administrators to manifest the City of Buckhannon's formal commitment to addressing the disease of drug addiction and improving the plight of those affected by our drug epidemic; and,

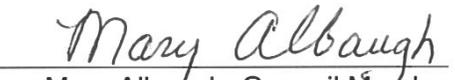
(5) That this Resolution shall be liberally disseminated throughout our Buckhannon-Upshur community and particularly among all municipal departments and shared with all City employees to demonstrate our City's formal commitment to addressing our drug epidemic.

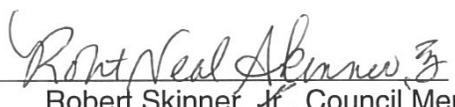
VOTE ON RESOLUTION

(1) 
David W. McCauley, Mayor

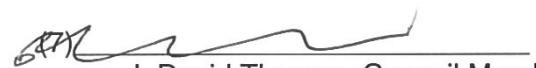
(2) 
Susan Aloï, City Recorder

(3) 
Pamela Cuppari, Council Member

(4) 
Mary Albaugh, Council Member

(5) 
Robert Skinner, Jr., Council Member

(6) 
C.J. Rylands, Council Member


J. David Thomas, Council Member

CERTIFICATE OF PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT

I, Susan Aloï, City Recorder of the City of Buckhannon, a West Virginia, municipal corporation, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution 2017-03 was lawfully passed and enacted by the Council of the City of Buckhannon during a regular meeting of the City Council convened at City Hall in Buckhannon, Upshur County, West Virginia, on March 16, 2017.


Susan Aloï, City Recorder