RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND APPROVING
THE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS

WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic has taken the lives of more than 37,000 North Carolinians since 2000;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid overdose crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is $78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement;

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct;

WHEREAS, a settlement has been reached in litigation against 8 companies that manufactured generic opioids;

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Third Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF-3) to provide for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements;

WHEREAS, by joining the settlements and approving the SAAF-3, the state and local governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible;

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Buncombe County and its residents, to sign onto the settlements and SAAF-3 and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and this County to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS, the SAAF-3 directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager or County Attorney to execute all documents necessary to enter into the additional opioid settlement agreements, to execute the SAAF-3, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator.

Adopted this the xx day of xxx, 2025.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

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Sarah Gross, Clerk

By: _____

Amanda Edwards, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM

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County Attorney