

**Resolution #03-2017**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BEREA, KY  
REGARDING THE CREATION OF A SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SEP)**

**WHEREAS** Kentucky is suffering from an epidemic of heroin and other injection drug use as evidenced by the increases in all of the following: drug overdoses and untimely deaths, emergency room visits and hospitalizations due to heroin and other drug use, babies born to women with drug addiction, rates of communicable diseases, and law enforcement arrests and incarceration due to heroin and other drug possession and associated criminal activity and Madison County, Kentucky, is experiencing increased rates of the same;

**WHEREAS** needles, syringes, and other equipment for injection drug use can become contaminated with blood that contains hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV and these viruses can be transmitted when such equipment is shared among injection drug users;

**WHEREAS** contaminated drug injection equipment puts the public and first responders at risk for exposure through accidental needle sticks when such contaminated equipment is improperly discarded;

**WHEREAS** the cost of the medications for one course of treatment for Hepatitis C is approximately \$89,000;

**WHEREAS** the cost of treating HIV infection, a lifelong chronic disease, is nearly \$400,000;

**WHEREAS** the Indiana State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) experienced a large outbreak of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections in 2015 among over 200 persons who injected drugs in Scott County, Indiana with a population of 23,744 and the CDC has issued a health advisory recommending that health departments ensure persons actively injecting drugs have access to integrated prevention services, including but not limited to access to sterile injection equipment from a reliable source;

**WHEREAS** the Madison County Health Department is statutorily mandated per KRS 211.180 to perform the duties of detection, prevention, and control of communicable diseases such as Hepatitis C and B and HIV and implementation of a Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) helps fulfill this mandate;

**WHEREAS** SEPs have been operated in the United States since the 1980s, over 200 programs operating in 32 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and Indian nations, and at least 18 SEPs operating in the state of Kentucky;

**WHEREAS** researchers at the National Institutes of Health, the General Accounting Office, the CDC, and the National Academy of Sciences concur that SEPs are an effective public health approach to reducing HIV and viral hepatitis infection;

**WHEREAS** SEPs have been supported as a harm reduction strategy by many health and governmental organizations including the CDC, the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Bar Association, and the US Conference of Mayors;

**WHEREAS** research has also shown that SEPs advance public safety, including the safety of law enforcement officials, by taking contaminated syringes off the streets and out of parking lots, parks, school grounds and playgrounds;

**WHEREAS** SEPs are an important link to mental health and addiction treatment services, serve as an entry point for other health care services, such as testing for HIV, HCV, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases, vaccinations, overdose prevention kits, and education and counseling, and are cost effective interventions compared to treating HIV and Hepatitis C;

**WHEREAS** SEPs have also been shown to NOT encourage individuals to begin using drugs, nor increase drug use among existing users, nor increase crime in neighborhoods in which such a program operates;

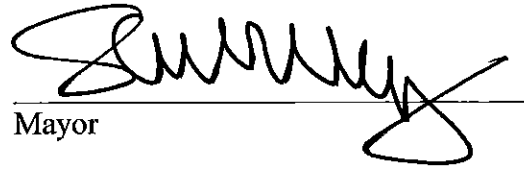
**WHEREAS** the Berea City Council is concerned about the public health risks associated with the epidemic of injection drug use;

**WHEREAS** the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky passed Senate Bill 192 in the 2015 Regular Session which amends KRS 218A.500, adding sections (5) (a) — (c), enabling local health departments to operate a substance abuse treatment outreach program which allows participants to exchange hypodermic needles and syringes with the consent of the local board of health and the legislative body of the city and county in which the program would operate;

**WHEREAS** the Madison County Board of Health passed a resolution to authorize the operation of a SEP in Madison County in June 2016;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2017, that the Berea City Council believes that a SEP would reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases through the availability of sterile drug injection equipment for the above stated reasons; and

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Berea City Council directs the Madison County Health Department to implement a SEP in Berea, Kentucky, located in Madison County, Kentucky, to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases associated with injection drug use and in so doing advance the public safety of Madison County and the City of Berea.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST: Cheryl Chaster  
City Clerk