

## **City of Owensboro Resolution 1-2018**

### **A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT 14-2018 AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF OWENSBORO ESTABLISHING THE CREATION OF A SYRINGE ACCESS EXCHANGE PROGRAM BY THE GREEN RIVER DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, sharing needles, syringes and other drug injection equipment is one of the highest causes of HIV infection in the United States, and 1 in 5 intravenous drug users are positive but do not know their status; and

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; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse continues to plague our community both from a human and economic standpoint; for every \$1 spent on a syringe access exchange program, up to \$7 is saved on costs associated with HIV infection; and

WHEREAS, the Green River District 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 access program helps fulfill this mandate; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and the National Academy of Sciences agree that syringe access exchange programs are an effective public health approach to reducing HIV and viral hepatitis infection; and syringe access programs 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; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky passed Senate Bill 192 in the 2015 Regular Session which amended 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; and

WHEREAS, the creation of an exchange program for hypodermic needles and syringes is in the best interests of the citizens of Owensboro and Daviess County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Daviess County Fiscal Court on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018, and the Board of Commissioners of the City of Owensboro on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018, as follows:

1. The Daviess County Fiscal Court and Board of Commissioners of the City of Owensboro believes that a syringe access exchange program would reduce the risk of

spreading infectious diseases through the availability of sterile drug injection equipment.

2. The Daviess County Fiscal Court and Board of Commissioners of the City of Owensboro consents to and requests the Green River District Health Department to develop an **evidence** based phased syringe access exchange program to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases associated with injection drug use in Owensboro and Daviess County and in so doing advance the public safety of the residents of Owensboro and Daviess County.

**INTRODUCED, PUBLIC READ, AND FINALLY APPROVED ON THE  
DATES STATED ABOVE.**

DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT

CITY OF OWENSBORO

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Al Mattingly  
Daviess County Judge/Executive

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Thomas H. Watson  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Warren  
Fiscal Court Clerk

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Beth Cecil  
City Clerk