

## *Resolution in Support of a DEA Tactical Diversion Squad for Northern West Virginia*

*Whereas, The Town of White Hall Police Department participates in the Drug Enforcement Administration State & Local Drug Task Force and the Greater Harrison County Violent Crime/Drug Task Force,*

*Whereas, the Drug Enforcement Administration currently has Special Agents assigned to their offices in Clarksburg and Wheeling, West Virginia,*

*Whereas, in or about 2009, the DEA Office of Diversion Control developed and initiated Tactical Diversion Squads (TDS) throughout the U.S. who are solely responsible for combating diversion of prescription drugs into the illicit market,*

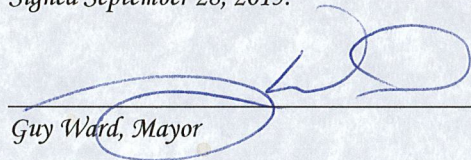
*Whereas, the DEA does not have a Tactical Diversion Squad or any Tactical Diversion Squad personnel in its Clarksburg or Wheeling offices solely assigned to or responsible for the Northern District of West Virginia,*

*Whereas, the absence of a DEA Tactical Diversion Squad in the Northern District of West Virginia along with the training and expertise they provide has greatly hampered sustained investigation and prosecution of prescription drug diversion cases in the Northern District of West Virginia,*

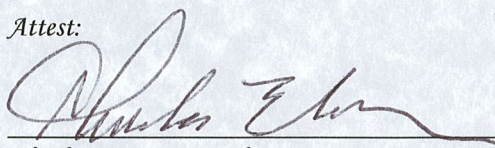
*Whereas, the diversion of prescription drugs into the illicit market has significantly harmed the quality of life and safety of the residents and the citizens of northern West Virginia,*

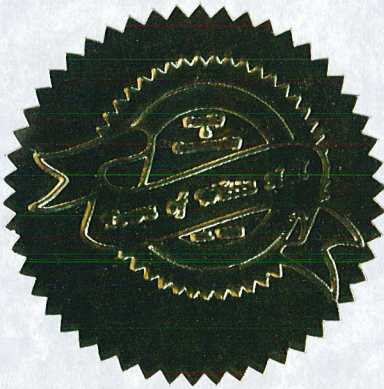
*Therefore, the Town Council of White Hall, West Virginia does hereby call upon the Drug Enforcement Administration to permanently assign DEA Tactical Diversion Squad personnel to its offices located in the Northern District of West Virginia.*

*Signed September 28, 2015:*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Guy Ward, Mayor

*Attest:*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Mason, Recorder



Town of White Hall  
3 Timrod Drive  
White Hall, WV 26554



Phone — (304) 367-1687  
FAX — (304) 367-1020

November 30, 2015

Robert L. Greer, Mayor  
City of Bridgeport, West Virginia  
PO Box 1310  
Bridgeport, WV 26330-6310

Dear Mayor Greer,

Per your request dated August 19, 2015 (copy attached), please find enclosed a Resolution that was passed by the Town Council of the Town of White Hall on September 28<sup>th</sup> in support of a DEA Tactical Diversion Squad for Northern West Virginia.

The members of our Council voted unanimously in favor of this Resolution. Because of all the illegal use of drugs in this part of the State of West Virginia, we see the need for a TDS in North Central West Virginia and encourage our lawmakers to use their influence to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Guy Ward  
Mayor  
Town of White Hall

cc:

- Senator Shelly Moore Capito
- Senator Joe Manchin
- Congressman David McKinley
- Congressman Alex Mooney



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**Robert L. Greer, Mayor**

August 19, 2015

The Honorable Guy Ward  
Town Of White Hall  
3 Timrod Drive  
White Hall, WV 26554

RE: DEA Tactical Diversion Squad

Dear Mayor:

The City of Bridgeport, and its governing body, the Bridgeport City Council, passed the attached resolution at its July 27, 2015 regular session calling upon the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to assign a DEA Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS) to the Northern District of West Virginia.

The City of Bridgeport through the Bridgeport Police Department has had a long lasting partnership with the DEA State and Local Drug Task Force operational in northcentral West Virginia. We are asking DEA leadership at its highest levels to enhance the efforts of our local DEA partners by assigning a TDS to the Northern District of West Virginia.

Our resolution documents the problem we face in our State and region regarding prescription drug abuse and the havoc it has brought to our communities and families. Our county, Harrison, along with Ohio, Marshall, Brooke and Hancock were recently designated as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

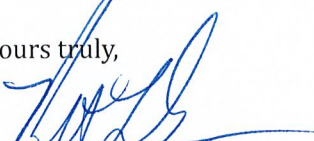
Therefore, I am asking the governing bodies of all our sister cities in northern West Virginia, particularly those in HIDTA counties, to join us by passing similar resolutions to express our desire for this valuable DEA asset to come to our aid.

We want the DEA to know we appreciate their efforts thus far in working with us in combatting the problem of prescription drug abuse and commend them for continuing their National Prescription Drug Take-Back Program, another wise and vital tool in attacking the problem.

Our desire is to present our combined effort through these resolutions to our Congressional Delegation so that they may work with DEA to bring a TDS to our region.

Please contact me at 304-641-9241 with any questions.

Yours truly,



Robert L. Greer  
Mayor

Enclosure: Resolution

## RESOLUTION

In July 2014, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported that forty six (46) deaths occur each day in the United States from prescription painkiller over doses.

The CDC reported that two hundred fifty nine million (259,000,000) prescriptions for painkiller medication were written by U.S. healthcare providers in 2012.

The CDC reported that West Virginia is the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) highest prescribing state with one hundred forty three (143) prescriptions written for every one hundred (100) residents in 2012.

The City of Bridgeport is located in Harrison County, West Virginia in the Northern District of West Virginia.

Harrison County is among those counties with the highest number of prescription drug overdose deaths in the Northern District of West Virginia.

The Bridgeport Police Department (BPD) participates in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) State & Local Drug Task Force (S&LDTF) and the Greater Harrison County Violent Crime/Drug Task Force (GHCVCDF).

The DEA S&LDTF and the GHCVCDF have investigated and successfully prosecuted numerous significant, complex and time consuming prescription drug diversion cases in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia.

The DEA currently has DEA Special Agents assigned to DEA offices in Clarksburg and Wheeling, WV.

In or about 2009, the DEA Office of Diversion Control developed and initiated Tactical Diversion Squads (TDS) throughout the U.S. who are solely responsible for combating diversion of prescription drugs into the illicit market.

The DEA does not have a TDS or TDS personnel in its Clarksburg or Wheeling offices solely assigned to or responsible for the Northern District of West Virginia.

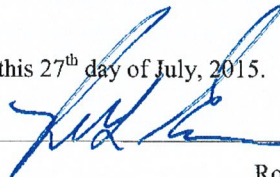
The absence of a DEA TDS in the Northern District of West Virginia along with the training and expertise they provide has greatly hampered sustained investigation and prosecution of prescription drug diversion cases in the Northern District of West Virginia.

The diversion of prescription drugs into the illicit market has significantly harmed the quality of life and safety of the residents of Bridgeport, WV and the citizens of northern West Virginia.

Therefore, as duly elected representatives of the citizens of Bridgeport, WV; I, Robert L. Greer, Mayor of the City of Bridgeport, along with unanimous consent from the City Council of Bridgeport, WV do hereby call upon the Drug Enforcement Administration to permanently assign DEA Tactical Diversion Squad personnel to its offices located in the Northern District of West Virginia.

The Bridgeport City Council further calls upon and petitions our sister cities in the Northern District of West Virginia to pass similar resolutions for delivery to DEA leadership through our honorable Congressional Delegation consisting of Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin and Congressmen David McKinley and Alex Mooney.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand hereto this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.



Robert L. Greer, Mayor