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Press Release

DA Morrissey joins AG Healey, police and fire chiefs announcing fund and funding for overdose reversal drug

Local police and fire departments will get steady price, state support

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When the price of the life-saving opiate overdose reversal drug Naloxone spiked last year – roughly tripling in a few months - Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey turned to Attorney General Maura Healey for help. That help has arrived, and local police and fire departments are going to have a steady supply, at a discount, thanks to AG Healey's work.

"We purchased 900 doses of naloxone to provide to all of our police and fire departments in March of 2014, and we paid roughly \$22 a dose," DA Morrissey said. "Some of our municipalities were using those doses very quickly. When we offered grants to help replenish those supplies, we saw that the prices were inconsistent and rising, with Walpole paying \$37.50 per dose, Randolph paying \$39 per dose, and then Needham and Wrentham paying \$66.89 for the same dose. We knew something was wrong with this picture."

Last week, a few months after initially raising the issue with Attorney General Healey, Morrissey joined her, state Sen. President Stanley Rosenberg, Sen. John Keenan (Quincy), Norwood Police Chief William Brooks III and others announcing a solid resolution to the resupply problem.

During the last budget cycle, the State Senate created a dedicated revolving fund to allow the Department of Public Health to purchase naloxone in bulk, then re-sell it at reduced cost to municipal police and fire departments. The legislature appropriated \$125,000 to the fund.

On Aug. 31, Attorney General Healey announced that her office has reached an agreement with Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc. that will require the company to pay \$325,000 to help offset the costs of the drug. The first-of-its kind payment from the manufacturer to a state will go into the Commonwealth's Municipal Naloxone Bulk Purchase Trust Fund, established to increase access to the nasal spray version of Naloxone through a discounted program.

"Putting Naloxone in police cruisers started with the City of Quincy and the good work of Chief Paul Keenan and Lt. Det. Pat Glynn. It has spread to a state-wide movement, and it is saving lives across the Commonwealth – and spreading across the country," District Attorney Morrissey said.

AG's press release here: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2015/2015-08-31-amphastar-agreement.html>

Video of press conference here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZfn58Oa8aQ#t=45>