



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Billy Grogan, Chief of Police
CC: Warren Hutmacher, City Manager
Date: October 11, 2010
Item: Pain Management Clinic Discussion

ITEM DESCRIPTION

A discussion item about Pain Management Clinic issues.

BACKGROUND

Prescription drug abuse is a growing problem in the United States, Georgia and even in the City of Dunwoody. As a result, a growing number of Pain Management Clinics have opened up in Georgia. One reason for this proliferation is that Georgia is one of only a few states, and the only one in the south, that has not adopted a Prescription Monitoring Program whereby prescription data is required to be submitted to a statewide database in order to assist in deterring the illegitimate use of prescription drugs.

Earlier this year, a pain clinic opened up in Kennesaw and within a short period of time all of the local pharmacies had run out of their schedule II pain medications. In the first 16 days of operation, the pain clinic wrote prescriptions for 32,000 oxycodone pills. Kennesaw Police observed a large number of automobiles at the location with out of state tags. Also this year, a pain clinic opened up in Cartersville. In a 7 month period of time, a local pharmacy supplied 60,000 oxycodone pills compared to 1,000 during the same period of time the previous year.

SB 418 was introduced to try and establish a Prescription Monitoring Program in Georgia. This bill failed. Several jurisdictions passed resolutions establishing a temporary moratorium on pain management clinics to give them time to develop guidelines for these types of businesses. There are two pain management clinics about to open in Chamblee.



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RECOMMENDED ACTION

At this time, staff recommends the City Council consider issuing a 180 day moratorium to provide the City of Dunwoody with sufficient time to analyze the impact of Pain Management Clinics and to consider whether regulation of such Pain Management Clinics is necessary.