

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 279

House concurrent resolution recognizing Project VISION for its role in addressing opiate addiction in Rutland City

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donaghy of Poultney, Fagan of Rutland City, Gage of Rutland City, Gallivan of Chittenden, Haas of Rochester, Helm of Fair Haven, Komline of Dorset, Malcolm of Pawlet, Potter of Clarendon, Shaw of Pittsford, Stevens of Shoreham, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Flory, French, and Mullin

Whereas, Governor Peter Shumlin devoted his 2014 State of the State address to the major opiate addiction problem in Vermont, and

Whereas, opiate and heroin addiction has had an especially strong impact on Rutland City, and

Whereas, the Rutland City Police Department has acknowledged that arresting drug users will not, in itself, address the opiate problem because it does not account for the underlying issues, and

Whereas, law enforcement and social service organizations in Rutland City submitted a proposal for a \$1 million U.S. Department of Justice grant to combat the city's opiate epidemic, and

Whereas, although Rutland City was not awarded the grant, the application process spurred the establishment of Project VISION (Viable Initiatives and Solutions through Involvement Of Neighborhoods), an organization that works with law enforcement to tackle substance abuse, crime, and quality-of-life issues through the implementation of evidence-based strategies, and

Whereas, Project VISION's chair, Joseph Kraus, explained that the concept of this civic partnership is to inform the public that Rutland "is our community and we're taking it back," and

Whereas, the Rutland City Police Department has identified a 10-block zone in the northwest area that is responsible for nearly three-fourths of all the city's police calls, and

Whereas, Project VISION will implement integrated approaches to prevent and reduce crime within the targeted neighborhood through a 25 percent reduction of blighted homes, and a three-year, 50 percent decrease in the number of multiunit apartments through a combined purchase, rehabilitation, and resale program, resulting in the owners residing in the units, and

Whereas, Project VISION has inspired other city initiatives to improve life in this northwest Rutland City neighborhood, and

Whereas, it will take much time and effort to address successfully the opiate problems in Rutland City, but Project VISION represents an important start in the right direction, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes Project VISION for its role in addressing opiate addiction in Rutland City, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Project VISION.