

## Board of County Commissioners

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## Carroll County Government

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### County Hires Firm to Initiate Litigation Against Opioid Companies

**Westminster, MD, Thursday, April 4, 2019** –Today, during Open Session, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners (BOC) voted unanimously for the County Attorney to retain the services of Andrews & Thornton to initiate litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors in state court. County Attorney Timothy Burke with Dick Ackerman, of Counsel for the law firm of Andrews & Thornton, provided a presentation titled, [“Understanding the Opioid Epidemic in Maryland.”](#)

In January 2019, the board directed the County Attorney to explore the possibility of joining state litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors. Today outside counsel made the presentation to explain the process of initiating and pursuing the litigation in state court. The attorneys work on a “contingent fee” basis, meaning payment to the attorney for legal services and costs is dependent on a recovery or award in the case.

Nationally, there are hundreds of municipal and county governments, including many in Maryland, currently pursuing litigation against leading opioid manufacturers and distributors. Many of these are suing through the federal court system; pursuing litigation through the state will allow for a quicker resolution.

The [presentation is available for public viewing](#) and today's Open Session is available for viewing on the [county meeting portal](#) and [YouTube channel](#). In addition, all meetings will be replayed on Comcast Channel 24.

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### CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email [ada@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:ada@carrollcountymd.gov) as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.