

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Warren Mayor Jim Fouts Will Attend Settlement Conference on Drug House Forfeiture Friday

Warren, MI – Mayor Jim Fouts, an outspoken public opponent of the growing heroin problem plaguing the Detroit suburbs, will fight to ensure that a former drug house will not fall back into the hands of its owner, a convicted drug dealer.

Macomb County Circuit Court Judge James Maceroni has ordered a settlement conference in a case involving the City of Warren's seizure and forfeiture of a house used by the owner to sell heroin in a Warren neighborhood. The judge has ordered the mayor, the police commissioner, the City Attorney's Office, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, and the property owner to attend the settlement conference Friday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. at Macomb County Circuit Court Judge James Maceroni's courtroom.

In 2014, Fouts, with the help of the Warren Police Department, shut down the dangerous drug house, making the neighborhood safer for all residents. The owner pled guilty to delivery of heroin.

Fouts, with the help of the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, is now fighting in court to forfeit the house to the City. Under state law, law enforcement agencies in Michigan can forfeit a house if the house was used to facilitate a drug transaction. Any proceeds from the sale of the house will be used to help police fight heroin abuse and sales, including funding the Warren Police Department in similar enforcement actions.

According to Fouts, although he will attend the settlement conference, settlement is highly unlikely. "This is about much more than the forfeiture of the house. This is about making a statement to the community that we are taking the growing heroin problem very seriously. We have zero tolerance for trafficking, selling, and/or using heroin in Warren. Do not come into our neighborhoods to buy or use heroin. You will be arrested. You will be prosecuted. You will be convicted, and we will take your property," said Fouts.