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Dear Community Member,

As you know, we are currently in the midst of an opioid epidemic, a public health crisis that brings many concerns regarding the effects on and outcomes for individuals using illicit substances, their families, and the community as a whole. Agencies across the City and Greater Lowell are working daily to coordinate efforts to educate, treat, and care for those affected by a substance use disorder.

The City of Lowell has seen an increase in **opioid-related overdoses** in which individuals reported that they had been **using cocaine, but not opioids**. Due to these reports, we feel confident saying that fentanyl is being added to cocaine in our area. This contamination has led to unexpected and unintentional fatal and nonfatal opioid-related overdoses.

The Substance Abuse and Prevention Division out of the Lowell Health Department has been collaborating with the City of Lowell's Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Task Force to create the outreach and prevention materials included in this packet. Please share the list of resources and attached fliers, which can be easily printed and posted. Feel free to contact the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division if you would prefer an electronic copy to share. Thank you for your continued efforts as we work together to address the ongoing epidemic.

Best Regards,

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