

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARLBORO TOWNSHIP POLICE TO PARTICIPATE IN TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NJ (April 18, 2016) – On April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Marlboro Township Division of Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 11th opportunity in six years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Justice Center located in the Marlboro Municipal Complex at 1979 Township Drive. To preserve privacy, remove personal information from the prescription bottles. Liquids, needles or sharps are not permitted. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in 350 tons (over 702,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,000 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,800 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 10 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 5.5 million pounds—more than 2,750 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

In 2012, Mayor Jonathan Hornik, in association with the Marlboro Township Police Department, the New Jersey Attorney General's office and the State Division of Consumer Affairs, announced the inauguration of a permanently installed box, part of "Project Medicine Drop". Throughout the year, residents can drop off their unwanted, unused or expired medications in a locked box in the lobby of the Police Department. The box resembles a mailbox and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 30 Take Back Day event please visit www.dea.gov or <http://www.marlboro-nj.gov/>

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