



Kelly Bachman
Communications Manager
302-366-7000 ext. 2087
kbachman@newark.de.us

April 25, 2016

City of Newark to Hold Prescription Drug Take-Back Event
Public encouraged to drop-off expired, unused, unwanted drugs

Newark, DE - For the 11th time in six years, the City of Newark Police Department (NPD) is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to host a prescription drug take-back event on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event, which helps prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs, will take place in the City municipal building at 220 S. Main Street. Residents are encouraged to bring any pills or patches; however, the DEA cannot accept liquids or needles. The service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked.

"We want our residents to be safe and healthy and this event plays an important role in achieving those goals," said City Manager Carol Houck. "The response from the community is positive each time, so I am grateful for the collaborative effort of the NPD and DEA in providing such a valuable resource and opportunity to the public we serve."

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.

"The Newark Police remain committed to helping the DEA remove these unwanted prescription drugs from our community," said Chief Paul Tiernan. "The response seen at our site, combined with the DEA's total numbers, shows how important it is to participate in these events."

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 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.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 30 Take Back Day event, please visit the [DEA Diversion website](#).

###