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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

April 22, 2013

St. Louis Police Take Back Unwanted Prescription Drugs at Area Walgreens

On April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its sixth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. The public is invited to bring medications for disposal to the following Walgreens locations: 1530 Lafayette, 3720 N. Kingshighway, 3822 S. Kingshighway and 4218 Lindell. The service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in 244 tons of prescription drugs at over 5,200 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. In its five previous "Take Back" events, DEA and its partners took in over 2 million pounds—over a thousand 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, such as flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash, pose potential safety and health hazards.

Four days after the first event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances. DEA is drafting regulations to implement the Act. Until new regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies like Metropolitan Police Department and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug "Take Back" events every few months.

Who: Metropolitan Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

What: Rx Take Back Initiative

When: Saturday, April 27, 2013, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Where: Walgreens located at 1530 Lafayette, 3720 N. Kingshighway, 3822 S. Kingshighway and 4218 Lindell

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