

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK POLICE SUPPORT NATIONAL TAKE BACK INITIATIVE DAY

SUFFOLK, VA (October 25, 2018) While the U. S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) recognition of National Take Back Day takes place on Saturday, October 27th across the nation, the Suffolk Police Department would like our citizens to know that they don't have to wait for a designated date to dispose of potentially dangerous, expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs.

Drug disposal boxes are located in the lobby at Suffolk Police Headquarters, 111 Henley Place, and are available 24 hours a day. Precinct 2, located at 3903 Bridge Road, also has a drug disposal box in the lobby and will be open this Saturday for the safe disposal of prescription drugs, and is also open daily depending on staffing. *This service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.*

Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container. If an original container is submitted, it is asked that you remove any identifying information from the prescription label. All solid dosage pharmaceutical products and liquids in consumer containers may be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their

original container. Intravenous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens.

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.

Citizens are also reminded that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines – *by flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash* – both pose potential safety, environmental and health hazards.

The Suffolk Police Department reminds you to: *Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back!*

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