



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Powell Police Department Taking Part in Drug Take Back Day

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Contact: Jeff Robinson – Public Information Officer

614-396-3322

jrobinson@cityofpowell.us

Powell, OH: The Powell Police Department will be taking part in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) third National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 29. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. that day, the public will have another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous unused, unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Medications may be brought to the police department parking lot (47 Hall St.) for safe disposal. This service will be provided anonymously and at no cost, with no questions asked. Pills must be removed from bottles and should be placed in plastic bags before arrival in the parking lot. Empty pill bottles, liquids, intravenous solutions and syringes will not be accepted.

"We are happy to again partner with the DEA and provide our residents with an opportunity to properly dispose of those drugs that they don't need anymore or that have expired," said Police Chief Gary Vest. "This helps eliminate a major source of prescription medication abuse."

Nearly 4,000 state and local law enforcement agencies across the country took part in the two previous Drug Take Back days, resulting in the collection of more than 309 tons of pills, according to www.dea.gov.

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 numbers 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.

Four days after last fall's 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 DEA has begun drafting regulations to implement the Act; until this process is complete, however, Drug Take Back days will continue to be held every six months.

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