

Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

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MEDIA RELEASE – OCTOBER 19, 2017

DEA NATIONAL TAKE BACK DAY IS OCTOBER 28, 2017

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III, Chief of Detectives John J. Kuczynski, Hunterdon County Sheriff Fred Brown, and Lesley Gabel, Prevention Resources are announcing that October 28th will be the date of a joint initiative known as National Take Back Day.

Sponsored by the United State Drug Enforcement Agency, Take Back Day is national event that aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Hunterdon County's Take Back Day was a collaborative effort involving the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office Narcotic Task Force, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Department, local Police Departments, and the Safe Communities Coalition.

In April 2016, New Jersey alone collected 15,939 pounds of unused prescription drugs, with 217 state and local police departments participating in the program. The Take Back Initiative continues to be an enormous success and a great benefit to the community. Citizens are able to visit Take Back Day collection sites located around the state to drop off their unused and expired prescription drugs.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans need to know 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.

According to Prosecutor Kearns, "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."

The Prosecutor added, "This is an opportunity for all in the community to do their part in helping stem the scourge of opioid dependence by making pills less available – the same pills that are often the impetus to a heroin addiction."

Permanent Prescription Pill drop off box locations in the Hunterdon and Somerset area are listed below.

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| Hunterdon County Justice Center 65 Park Avenue, Flemington 8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday – Friday (Arrangements can be made with Sheriff’s Office for after-hours pick-up) | Somerset County Sheriff’s Office County Administration Building (lower level) 20 Grove Street, Somerville |
| Frenchtown Police Department 27 Second Street, Frenchtown | Bernards Township Police Department 1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge |
| Holland Township Police Department 61 Church Road (back of building), Milford 8am – 4pm, Monday – Friday (Arrangements can be made for after hours) | Branchburg Police Department 590 Old York Road at Route 202 North, Branchburg Franklin Township Police Department 495 Demott Lane, Somerset |
| Lambertville Police Department 349 North Main Street, Lambertville | Hillsborough Police Department 379 South Branch Road, Hillsborough |
| Readington Township Police Department 507 Route 523, Whitehouse Station | North Plainfield Police Department 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield |
| Tewksbury Police Department 167 County Road 517, Califon | |
| NJ State Police Perryville Barracks 90 Route 173, Hampton | |
| West Amwell Police Department 24 Mt. Airy Village Road, West Amwell | |

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