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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

### **PLYMOUTH DISTRICT**

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**NEWS ADVISORY**  
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### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup> IS NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY**

*Safely dispose of your unwanted pills in med return boxes at police stations around Plymouth County*

**BROCKTON** – Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz is reminding residents to safely recycle their expired and unwanted medications at drop boxes in police stations around the county as part of Plymouth County’s Prescription Drug Take Back Program.

Saturday, October 27th is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, a day sponsored by the U.S. Justice Department Drug Enforcement Administration and organized to encourage citizens to properly dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medications. In 2013, DA Cruz and Plymouth County Sheriff Joseph McDonald announced the local Plymouth County Drug Take Back Program. Partnered with Covanta Energy’s Rx4Safety Program, the boxes were placed in police stations around Plymouth County.

Residents are asked to dispose of their unwanted or expired medications into boxes located inside participating police departments, which are under 24-hour surveillance. Police inventory and log the contents of the disposal box and the drugs are transported to Covanta Energy’s incinerator in Plymouth where they are destroyed and turned into renewable energy.

“We can all do our part to help in this overdose crisis, and participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a way to proactively protect yourself,” DA Cruz said. “Taking the time to get rid of unused and expired medications could mean eliminating the risk of drug theft and abuse in your home. It’s a small but important step to take to keep illegal drugs off our streets and out of our neighborhoods.”

According to the U.S. Justice Department Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Control Program, 949,046 pounds were collected across the United States as National Take Back Day on April 28, 2018. Of that, the DEA estimated that 27,126 pounds were collected in Massachusetts.

Drug return boxes are currently located at all police stations in Plymouth County except Plympton. Residents there should go to the Carver Police Department. Additionally, campus police stations at Bridgewater State University, Massasoit Community College and Stonehill all now have drug return boxes. Residents in those towns are encouraged to bring medicines to police stations in their area. All drops are completely anonymous.

Medications accepted are pills, capsules, patches, prescription medications and ointments and medicines in leak-proof, unbreakable containers. Over-the-counter medications, vitamins and pets medicines are also accepted. No needles will be accepted.

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