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MEDIA RELEASE

DATE /TIME October 19, 2011

TOPIC TAKE BACK PROGRAM

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD NATIONAL TAKE BACK PROGRAM OF UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

On Saturday, October 29th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Crescent City Police Department, the Del Norte Sheriff Office, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to either the Crescent City Police Department or the Del Norte Sheriff Office. The service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked. By doing so, you will be helping prevent drug abuse and theft.

Americans that participated in the two previous National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day events turned in more than 309 tons of pills at more than 5,300 sites manned by over 3,800 federal, state and local law enforcement partners.

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. Two-and-a-half times more people currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants *combined*, according to the recently released 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The 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.

“This program provides a safe and environmentally sound way for our citizens to dispose of their unused, unwanted, or expired medications, not to mention the detrimental effects it would have on the city wastewater treatment plant”, says Chief Plack. The Crescent City Police Department, the Del Norte Sheriff Office and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months. Please participate and help us make this a healthier and drug free community.

BY: Chief Douglas Plack

“DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY”