



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Pleasanton Police Unveils Pharmaceutical Disposal Site

—*Pleasanton, CA*— The City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Police Department in partnership with the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), is proud to announce the opening of a new pharmaceutical disposal site at the Pleasanton Police Department, 4833 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. The pharmaceutical collection bin is located in the Police Department lobby and is accessible to the public 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. Both controlled and non-controlled prescription medications as well as over-the-counter medications will be accepted.

There is a growing concern about expired and unused pharmaceuticals in homes because they are susceptible to accidental ingestion (poisoning young children), theft, misuse, and abuse. According to the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, almost twice as many Americans (6.8 million) currently abuse pharmaceutical controlled substances than those abusing cocaine, hallucinogens, heroin, and inhalants *combined*. Moreover, nearly 110 Americans die every day from drug-related overdoses, and about half of those overdoses are related to opioids, a class of drug that includes prescription painkillers. More than two-thirds of people, including juveniles, who misuse prescription painkillers for the first time, report obtaining the drugs from friends, relatives, or from their home medicine cabinet.

In addition to the significant issues mentioned above, another reason we want to properly dispose of medications is to keep them out of California waters and landfills. American Water Works Association studies show that exposure to certain pharmaceuticals results in abnormal development and reproduction in fish and other wildlife, even at very low levels

Over the past several years the Pleasanton Police Department has collaborated with the DEA while hosting one-day, National Prescription Drug Take-Back events. Including the most recent event in September, 2014, enormous public participation has resulted in the collection of more than 2,700 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals in Pleasanton alone. These events, along with the efforts of local advocacy groups including Mother's With A Purpose, made it very clear that this type of public resource was much needed in our community.

**EDUCATION IS KEY and HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE:**

• Educating and promoting the proper disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals (NO SHARPS, NO AEROSOLS) to the public is of great importance. Please follow these simple guidelines when using the pharmaceutical disposal site:

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- While at home, pour unwanted pills (NO SHARPS, NO AEROSOLS) into a plastic baggie and seal the baggie
  - Recycle the prescription bottles (after removing or blacking-out all labels containing personal identifying information)
  - Bring the baggies down to the police department and drop them in the collection bin
- Leave liquid medications in their original containers, removing or blacking out personal identifying information, and drop them in the collection bin

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