



Ceres Department of Public Safety

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NEWS RELEASE

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CERES POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SEPTEMBER 29 AT THE CERES COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT

Ceres, CA – On September 29, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Ceres Police Department 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 the Ceres Community Center Parking Lot at 2701 Fourth St. A booth will be set up in the parking lot. Ceres Detective Darren Venn will be supervising the event. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last April, Americans turned in 552,161 pounds—276 tons—of prescription drugs at over 5,600 sites operated by the DEA and nearly 4,300 state and local law enforcement partners. In its four previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners took in over 1.5 million pounds—nearly 775 tons—of pills.

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. 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 the first 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 Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents’ controlled substances in certain instances. DEA is drafting regulations to implement the Act. Until new regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies like Ceres Police Department and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months. *(Continued on the next page.)*

For further details to the event, please contact Detective Darren Venn at 538-5716. If citizens are unable to come to the Community Center on September 19, 2012, they may call the Stanislaus county Drug Enforcement at 558-6300 to arrange for an appointment.