



City of Hollywood, Florida

Hollywood Police Department

April 26, 2019

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET THIS WEEKEND **HPD TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Hollywood Police Department (outside the main entrance), 3250 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, FL

On Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Hollywood Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public its 17th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

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 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen 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.

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