

## NEWS RELEASE

**For More Information Contact:**

**David Tilley, PIO**  
Plano Police Department  
972-941-2433

**For Immediate Release:**

**Date:** April 25, 2019  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m.  
**Incident:** PUBLIC NOTICE

### **NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK INITIATIVE**

On Saturday, April 27, 2019, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. This initiative seeks to prevent increased pill abuse and theft by providing a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national attention to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. In 2018, the department collected over 5,000 pounds for safe and proper disposal during this event.

- The program is free and anonymous;
- Prescription and over-the-counter solid dosage medications (i.e.: tablets and capsules) will be accepted;
- Intra-venous solutions, injectables, inhalers, and needles will not be accepted;
- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamines are not a part of this initiative.

The following collection sites, hosted by the Plano Police Department, will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:

- Plano Senior High School – 2200 Independence Pkwy
- Clark High School – 523 Spring Creek Pkwy
- Plano East Senior High School – 3000 Los Rios Blvd
- Plano West Senior High School – 5601 West Parker Rd

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are increasing at alarming rates, 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, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.

More information, as well as other drop off points, can be located on the DEA website:

[http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html).

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