



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011  
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**Riverside, California:** The Riverside Police Department, along with other law enforcement agencies around the nation, will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Pharmaceutical Take-Back initiative.

This initiative seeks to prevent pill abuse and theft through the collection of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The Riverside Police Department will be collecting these types of drugs for proper disposal on Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Magnolia Police Station located at 10540 Magnolia Ave. and the Orange Street Station located at 4102 Orange St. The event is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many people are not aware that medications 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. In addition, many people do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medications, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away, both offering potential safety and health hazards.

The Riverside Police Department will collect the unwanted pharmaceuticals and turn them over to the DEA who will safely destroy the drugs. For more information regarding the National Take Back Initiative, visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov), or contact Sgt. Ron Ruddy at 951-353-7228.

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