



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Johnston Police Work to Combat Opioid Epidemic** *National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – October 28*

**JOHNSTON, Iowa** – Join the Johnston Police Department on Saturday, Oct. 28 as we work to combat the opioid epidemic during “National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.” This day allows Iowans to safely dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs on **Saturday, Oct. 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the **Public Safety Building, located at 6373 Merle Hay Road in Johnston.**

“Addiction to opioids is a disease that often starts in the family medicine cabinet,” said Police Chief Dennis McDaniel. “To help combat this disease, prescription medicines must be properly disposed of to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands. The Drug Take Back Day on October 28 can help combat this growing epidemic, and it starts with all of us turning in our unused bottles of prescription medicine.”

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in an effort to provide safe, convenient and a responsible means for disposal of prescription drugs, while educating the public about the potential for addiction.

**Items that will NOT be accepted at this event:**

- Syringes or injectable needles
- Illegal controlled substances
- Inhalers or other compressed air cylinders

An increasing number of states have reported deaths from prescription drug abuse outpaced deaths associated with motor vehicle accidents. Studies show a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans’ typical method for disposing of unused

medicines is to flush them down the toilet or throw them away in the trash; however, this approach poses many potential environmental hazards that could impact the health and safety of the public.

The Johnston Police Department began participating in this annual event in 2011. Since that time, the Johnston "Take Back" events have been successful in collecting over 850 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs.

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