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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

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Incident: PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL TAKE BACK INITIATIVE

On September 25, 2010, 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.

- The program is free and anonymous
- Prescription and over-the-counter solid dosage medications (ie: 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 on September 25, 2010:

- Plano East Senior High School – 3000 Los Rios Blvd
- Plano Senior High School – 2200 Independence Pkwy
- Clark High School – 523 Spring Creek Pkwy
- Plano West Senior High School – 5601 W Parker Rd
- Baylor Hospital – Plano – 4700 Alliance Blvd.

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.

Other participants in this initiative include the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; the Partnership for a Drug-Free America; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the National Association of Attorneys General; the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy; the Federation of State Medical Boards; and the National District Attorneys Association.

More information, as well as other drop off points, can be located on the DEA website: <http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/takeback/index.html>

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