



## COSMOPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 478 / 1312 First Street Cosmopolis, WA. 98537  
Heath Layman, *Chief of Police*

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### Council Report 06/21/2023

We are now set up in a system through WA DOL known as Driver and People Search (DAPS), an online enhanced search of license plates and vehicles service. This is a free service that we weren't aware of that Clerk Grove discovered and facilitated getting for our department. This is a useful tool for investigations that allows us to search for associated vehicles to people and associated people to vehicles, partial plates, and partial name searches etc.

To help reduce the risk of drugs in the home that can potentially harm children, teens, or adults, we now have setup a secure, safe, drop-off location for a drug take-back program in the lobby of the Public Safety Building. The drug take-back disposal is all set and already actively being used. Thank you to Clerk Grove for managing this program at no cost to the city.

Mental Health Services – Lt. Salstrom of the Hoquiam Police Department was successful in a grant funding request to secure Laina's Behavioral Health Navigator position through the end of 2023. We were hoping for funding through 2024. \$48,000 from GHC Public Health was awarded to us for services to Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, and Hoquiam. Other avenues of funding for through 2024 are still being pursued.

We completed and passed an audit with ACCESS, A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System, (see attached certification).

Thank you to Scott and Lori Berken for a donation to our Reserve Police Officer Association in honor of our efforts during the 2023 West County Citizens Academy (see attachment of the press release the Berken's wrote and submitted to the paper.)

We had 158 calls for service between 05/17/23 and 06/19/2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Heath Layman, Chief

*"A Community Partnership"*

Letter to the Editor, Daily World

Dear Editor,

We recently had the opportunity to participate in the 2023 West County Citizen's Police Academy hosted by the Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Cosmopolis Police Departments. Over the course of 11 weeks, one night per week - plus an occasional Saturday - 25 citizens from western Grays Harbor County were given a crash course in the inner workings of law enforcement. And what a fascinating, informative, enlightening, and awe-inspiring experience it was!

Each 2-hour class included lessons on various aspects of policing including patrol procedures, Drug Task Force operations, coroner responsibilities, Therapeutic Drug Court success stories, Crime Lab services, firearms, K9s and officer involved deadly force encounters, just to name a few.

For us, the commitment and passion of the men and women serving us, the citizens of Grays Harbor, was the biggest take-away from this experience. Whether it involves tracking down evidence involved in a crime, following the legal limitations of enforcing laws that can be viewed - in some cases - as handing carte blanche to criminals, celebrating the success of an individual who does the hard work to end their cycle of addiction and crime, or rewarding their K9 who just took down a bad guy or sniffed out a drug stash, these officers and their associates in other law enforcement divisions provided participants with valuable lessons in understanding how they perform their jobs.

Throughout the course the officers continuously thanked us for our participation, but it was US who were indebted to THEM. These men and women took time before, during, or after their regular shifts to share their knowledge and experience with a room full of people who simply had to show up.

It can be far too easy to take these guardians of the community for granted. If you've ever wondered why and how cops do things the way they do, we highly encourage you to keep an eye out for the next Citizen's Police Academy opportunity, west or east county, and to apply for it. The program is FREE but does include a background check. We are confident you'll complete it with a deeper appreciation of the men and women in blue, as well as gain a better understanding of the role we all play in assuring we live in a safe community.

Sincerely,

Scott and Lori Berken

# *Certificate of Completion*

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This certificate is presented to the

**Cosmopolis PD**

For completion of the 14th ACCESS WACIC/NCIC Audit Cycle



Originating Agency Identifier

**WA0140600**

Audit Conducted by: Mary Jo Margeson

Audit Conducted on: November 8th, 2023

Audit Completed on: May 10th, 2023

## **Cosmopolis Police Department announces convenient drug take-back program for leftover household medications**

**Cosmopolis, WA 6/7/23**– Cosmopolis Police Department announced today it has established a convenient medication take-back program for easy disposal of leftover, unused and out-of-date prescription and over-the counter medications.

In an effort to help reduce the risk of drugs in the home that can potentially harm children, teens or adults, Cosmopolis Police Department has set up a secure, safe drop-off location in its lobby.

Unused medications in the home are a source of drug abuse in millions of homes, with the opioid crisis in the United States fueled in part by that availability: 47%\* of misused prescription pain relievers are given by, bought from or taken from a friend or relative. On average, an American dies of a drug overdose every 5 minutes\*\*.

“We want to provide the folks in our community with the safe, secure opportunity to clean out their medicine cabinets and make their homes and communities safer,” said Kasey Grove, Police Clerk, of Cosmopolis Police Department, “We want to remind people that they should not flush drugs down the toilet. Traces of drugs can appear in community drinking water. Our drug disposal unit, which is easily accessible in the department lobby, is a great answer to that problem and it’s simple to do. All they do is just come in, look for the big green receptacle and take it from there. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked.”

Grove said there are some things that can’t be taken in the receptacle, such as inhalers and needles, but she is happy to help you determine what to do. The collection receptacle will be available in the lobby from 8am to 4pm M-F (with the exception of holidays or other special closures).

Cosmopolis Police Department partnered with Inmar to manage this drug take-back program. The company has a long history as the industry leader in handling prescription and over-the-counter drug returns safely, securely and discreetly for major and regional chain drug stores as well as independent pharmacies and hospitals across the U.S.

\* Source: SAMHSA 2021

\*\* Source: CDC February 2023

# Cosmopolis police start up medication take-back box

**MICHAEL S. LOCKETT**  
*The Daily World*

The Cosmopolis Police Department has started a new program for medication take-backs with a secure box in their station lobby.

The program is meant to help residents who might have leftover or excess medications to get rid of, so they can dispose of them in a safe and efficient way, said police Clerk Kasey Grove.

"We want to remind people that they should not flush drugs down the toilet. Traces of drugs can appear in community drinking water. Our drug disposal unit, which is easily accessible in the department lobby, is a great answer to that problem and it's simple to do," Grove said. "All they do is just come in, look for the big green receptacle and take it from there. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked."

The box is not designed for syringes or inhalers, Grove said, but is a free way



**Cosmopolis police Clerk Kasey Grove poses with the medication take-back box she helped get installed, a first for the city, on June 7.**

of disposing of other medications. Clearing surplus medication out of homes is an efficient way of preventing unsafe use of those drugs, Grove said. Nearly half of misused medications are obtained by the user from someone they're prescribed to, according to a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration study, Grove said.

"This will keep citizens from having potentially

dangerous medications in their homes that could be misused by someone other than themselves. Many times folks are given a prescription that they may not need to finish taking, or that does not work for them and they can't take," Grove said. "When this occurs, that medication is often left in a cabinet or drawer because folks don't know what to do with it. This provides them a safe and easy way to dispose of

those medications so they don't fall into the hands of others that should not be taking them."

The installation and operation was carried out by Inmar, the company providing the disposal service, free for the department, Grove said. The Aberdeen and Hoquiam police departments have had similar programs in their cities for several years, Grove said. Chief Heath Layman is excited for the program, Grove said.

The lobby doors at the Cosmopolis Fire Station where the box is located are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, barring holidays or special closures, Grove said. Staff are happy to help anyone with questions about what can and cannot be put in the box, Grove said.

Contact Senior Reporter Michael S. Lockett at 757-621-1197 or [mlockett@thedailyworld.com](mailto:mlockett@thedailyworld.com).