

MEMORANDUM



TO: SCOTT R. BAETENS
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

FROM: KEVIN GILMORE, LIEUTENANT – SUPPORT SERVICES *KG*

SUBJECT: DEA DRUG TAKE BACK

DATE: May 2, 2024

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, the Novi Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) provided citizens another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Anyone with such medications was able to bring them to the Novi Police Headquarters located at 45125 West Ten Mile. This service was free and anonymous, with no questions asked.

During the event, The Novi Community Coalition also provided information regarding the proper method to dispose of unused medication and to supply "lock boxes" in order to further prevent prescription pill abuse.

During this year's program, the Novi Police Department collected 148.64 pounds of expired, unused, and unwanted medication. Since the Novi Police Department began partnering with the DEA in 2010 for this initiative, over 3,500 pounds of medication has been properly disposed of.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, 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, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

