

MEMORANDUM



TO: SCOTT R. BAETENS
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

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

SUBJECT: DEA DRUG TAKE BACK

DATE: October 30, 2024

On Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, the Novi Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) partnered with Catholic Central High School, Sam's Club (Novi) and Walmart (Novi) to provide 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 take them to any of the four partnering locations, which was free and anonymous, with no questions asked.

This was made possible through strong community partnering among local law enforcement, educational institutions, and retail organizations, all working together to ensure safe disposal and promote public health. These partnerships reflect a collective commitment to reducing prescription drug misuse and enhancing community well-being.

During this year's program, the Novi Police Department collected 153.9 pounds of expired, unused, and unwanted medication. Since the Novi Police Department began partnering with the DEA in 2010 for this initiative, over 3,700 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.

