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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

WHEAT RIDGE POLICE PARTNER WITH LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER FOR NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. Sept. 23, 2019– On Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Wheat Ridge Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Pills and patches can be dropped off for disposal at Lutheran Medical Center’s main entrance at 8300 W. 38th Ave. in Wheat Ridge. (The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous. No questions will be asked.

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.

“We are proud to work with the DEA each year to bring this important event to our community in order to help keep out-of-date and unused medications from being misused and from contaminating our water system,” stated Wheat Ridge Police Chief Dave Pickett. “Opioid and other prescription drug abuse has become a significant health and safety issue across the country, and we are seeing its effects in Wheat Ridge. With the medical community paying closer attention to Opioid usage by patients and increasing awareness through community-based programs, we may begin to see fewer cases of abuse or accidental poisoning.”

Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including those available in the home medicine cabinet. In addition, flushing unused medications down the toilet or throwing them in the trash pose potential safety and health hazards.

In addition to Drug Take Back events around the metro area on October 26, prescription drugs may also be disposed of properly at the kiosk inside the Walgreens Drug Store at W. 44th and Kipling and at the Lutheran Medical Center outpatient pharmacy. For more

information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the fall Drug Take Back Day event, go to the [DEA Diversion website](#).

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