



CITY OF RICHMOND
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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – On Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 10 am to 2 pm, the Richmond City Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration 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. The public will be able to bring pills for disposal to the Richmond City Sheriff's Office located at 1701 Fairfield Way in Richmond, VA. The collection will include all pills and patches. However, we are unable to accept liquids, needles, or sharps within this collection effort. This service is free to the community and remains 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. 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.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen 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.

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