



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

Crime Prevention Program
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110
Portland, Oregon 97204

Organizing and supporting community partnerships to prevent crime and fear of crime

Proposal 04/07/09

What: Pilot Project Event – Prescription Drug Turn-In

Purpose: To destroy unused and potentially dangerous prescription drugs in a manner that raises awareness about the abuse of prescription drugs among teens and does not pollute our waterways.

Where: East Precinct (*tbd*) at a site that can accommodate the Mobile Precinct. If the event is successful, it can be offered in other areas.

Partners: The Portland Police Bureau, The Office of Neighborhood Involvement, *destination location (tbd)* in East Portland, The Oregon Partnership*, City of Portland Water Bureau*.

Details: We are proposing a one day event to take place on a Saturday in a location that is central to East Portlanders or a well known destination location within East Portland. One to two officers, along with two Crime Prevention Program Coordinators (CPPCs), will manage the event site and set up of the mobile precinct. Partner(s) would be invited to table at the event and provide educational information related to drug abuse and proper disposal of prescription drugs. Partners would also have their logos and information included in outreach materials.

Costs: Staff: two officers, two crime prevention coordinators; cost to operate mobile precinct; cost to incinerate medications; and staff time for coordination. CPPC will provide the majority of coordination and will need contacts with partner organizations.

We are asking the Portland Police Bureau to provide incineration services at the Environmental Services Marion County facility and appropriate containers for the controlled substances.

Outreach: News releases, neighborhood associations, ONI contacts, and work through PIOs for further outreach.

Potential Challenges: Portland Police Bureau Resources after the 2009 Fiscal Year (Mobile Unit, Officer Pay)

* Indicates that further confirmation and planning will be required.



Prevention of Substance Abuse Starts at Home

- The prescription drug turn in is an effort to prevent the misuse of drugs, especially by teenagers.
- Parents are in a unique position to immediately reduce teen access to prescription drugs because they are found in the home.
- A prescription drug turn in is a Crime Prevention effort to raise awareness of the dangers of unused prescriptions drugs and the increase of abuse among teens.
- More teens abuse drugs than any illicit drug except marijuana.
- The Majority of teens who abuse prescription drugs get them easily and for free, primarily from relatives and friends.
- Many parents are not aware of teen prescription drug abuse.
- Teens say their parents are not discussing these dangers with them, even though research shows that parental disapproval is a powerful way to keep teens from using drugs.

Dispose of Prescriptions Drugs without Harming Our Water Supply

- Protect water quality by turning in prescription drugs at a Prescription Drug Turn In event.
- In a study of 139 streams in 30 states, drugs were found in 80% of samples.
- Drugs from households and care facilities reach waterways from excretion, flushing drugs down the toilet into sewers, septic systems, and trash disposal resulting in landfill leachate that reaches surface water or infiltrates groundwater.
- Not all drugs can be treated at traditional wastewater treatment plants.
- Prescription drugs turned in at a Prescription Drug Turn In would be destroyed by incineration.

Background Information:

- In July of 2008 the Winston Police Department initiated a successful prescription drug turn in that is ongoing.
- Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies has proposed an Oregon Pharmaceutical Take Back which would require pharmaceutical companies to fund a program that encourages the legal return of unused prescription drugs (July 2007).
- There is also proposed legislature to “Recycle Prescription Drugs” and give them to uninsured persons, instead of destroying them.

Resources: Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
The Oregon Partnership
Winston Area Community Partnership