



# Town of Wallkill Police Department

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release  
September 16, 2016**

**Incident:** Media Conference – Med Drop-Off Box  
**Location:** Town of Wallkill Police Station, Office of Emergency Management, 99 Tower Drive, Building B, Rear Entrance, Town of Wallkill, NY  
**Date/Time:** Friday, September 16, 2016 / 11:00 am

On Friday, September 16, 2016 at 11:00 am, Chief Robert C. Hertman of the Town of Wallkill Police Department hosted a media conference at the Police Department's Office of Emergency Management ("OEM"). The conference included, among others, Town of Wallkill Supervisor Dan Depew, Town of Wallkill Councilman Neil Meyer, Deputy Chief Antonino Spano, Sergeant Jared Loucks, Community Council President Barbara Alvarez, and Commissioner of Public Works Lou Ingrassia Jr.

During the media conference Chief Hertman and Supervisor Depew announced that Town of Wallkill citizens desiring to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications can now use the safe and secure permanent drop off location at the Town of Wallkill, Police Department, 99 Tower Drive, Building B.

Town of Wallkill Supervisor Dan Depew, Members of the Town Board, and community groups, have partnered with the Town of Wallkill Police Department to establish a permanent drug collection program in order to reduce the supply of drugs that can potentially harm teens and adults.

According to a recent Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more than six million Americans abuse prescription drugs. Among youth who are 12 to 17 years old, 7.4 percent report past year non-medical use of prescription drugs.

The abuse of prescription drugs is clearly impacting the Town of Wallkill community as evidenced by the two recent robberies of pharmacies during which narcotic pain medication was sought by the defendants.



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In June, members of the Police Department's Community Council, Councilman Meyer and Chief Hertman attended a public forum on heroin addiction, hosted by Orange County District Attorney Dave Hoovler. During this forum speakers clearly identified the nexus between the abuse of narcotic pain medication and heroin addiction. Considering the foregoing we collectively want to make members of the community aware of our new drop off box

Properly disposing of excess drugs is everyone's responsibility as a matter of public safety. More than 70 percent of young people abusing prescription pain relievers get them through friends or family, a statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet. Now citizens in the Town of Wallkill won't have to wait for a specific take-back day, or travel outside of our community, to clean out their medicine cabinets. The collection site is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked.

Robert C. Hertman  
Chief of Police

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