## RE-RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

## ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT

2500 S. ARCHIBALD AVENUE, ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA 91761 (909) 395-2001

RE-RELEASE DATE AND TIME: APRIL 23, 2013 / 10:00 A.M.

EVENT DATE / TIME: APRIL 27, 2013 / 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

EVENT: NATIONWIDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

LOCATIONS: ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT, 2500 S. ARCHIBALD AVE,

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

ONTARIO SENIOR CENTER, 225 E. B STREET,

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

**AND** 

KAISER PERMANENTE, ONTARIO MEDICAL CENTER 2295 S. VINEYARD AVE, BLDG. B, ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

**ONTARIO, CA** – On April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Ontario Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its sixth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to one of the three designated locations throughout the City of Ontario. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in 244 tons of prescription drugs at over 5,200 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. In its five previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners took in over 2 million pounds—over a thousand tons—of pills.

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.

Four days after the first event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances. DEA is drafting regulations to implement the Act. Until new regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies like [agency] and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-

back events every few months.

On April 27, 2013, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., the Ontario Police Department encourages the public to bring in their unwanted medications. There will be three supervised locations, the Ontario Police Department lobby (2500 S. Archibald Avenue, Ontario, CA), the Ontario Senior Center (225 E. B Street, Ontario, CA), and Kaiser Permanente, Ontario Medical Center (2295 S. Vineyard Avenue, Bldg. B, Ontario, CA) where the items can be turned in and properly disposed.

ISSUED BY: Officer Natalie Kopperud (P.I.O.)
(909)395-2001 ext. 2854

APPROVED BY: DM