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Troy Police Department to Increase Access to Safe Medication Disposal with Drug Collection Unit Donated by CVS Health

Joint effort by CVS Health and Partnership for Drug-Free Kids aims to combat drug abuse, encourage safe drug disposal in local communities

TROY, NY – Mayor Patrick Madden today announced the City of Troy Police Department been awarded a grant for a drug collection unit as part of CVS Health’s Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program. The new unit is located at the Troy Police Department Central Station (55 State Street) and will provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.

“Unused medications pose a unique risk to local communities, increasing opportunities for prescription drug abuse and creating potential contamination of local waterways,” **said Mayor Patrick Madden.** “The City of Troy and the Troy Police Department is pleased to partner with CVS Health on this important public health initiative to help local families in our community rid their homes of unused pills and medicines.”

“The Troy Police Department remains committed to working with our local, state, federal and corporate partners to reduce the availability of unused medications in our community through drug give-back days and other initiatives,” **said Troy Police Chief Brian Owens.** “The addition of a permanent drug collection through CVS Health’s Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program helps expand the availability of this important service to the public on a year-round basis and build upon our efforts to eliminate these dangerous medications from our community.”

The new drug disposal unit will help to reduce the amount of unneeded medicine in residents’ homes and decrease the potential for prescription drug abuse, which has soared in recent years, especially among teenagers. More than 70 percent of teenagers

say it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a Partnership for Drug-Free Kids study. Proper drug disposal also helps to prevent the contamination of local landfills and water supplies from unused medication.

“CVS Health is dedicated to helping the communities we serve address and prevent prescription drug abuse,” **said Tom Davis, R.Ph., Vice President of Pharmacy Professional Services at CVS Health.** “Reducing the amount of unused and unwanted medication in the home is critical to preventing prescription drug abuse. We are proud to work with the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids and local leaders to increase convenient access to safe medication disposal.”

The City of Troy's new Drug Collection Unit site is available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked. Troy residents and CVS Pharmacy customers can also inquire about the Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program at the toll free phone number 1-866-559-8830 or visit <http://www.cvs.com/content/prescription-drug-abuse>

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