East Haddam Police Department and Office of the Resident State Trooper

1 Plains Road, P.O. Box 385, Moodus, Connecticut 06469

NEWS RELEASE

East Haddam Police and Resident State Trooper taking back unwanted prescription drugs October 23, 2021 at the *East Haddam Police Department located at 1 Plains Road, Moodus*

(Rear parking lot of the Municipal Office Complex.)

East Haddam, Connecticut – On Saturday, October 23, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the East Haddam Police/Resident Trooper and the 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. Bring your pills for disposal to the East Haddam Police Department at 1 Plains Road, Moodus. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last fall Americans turned in 456 tons (912,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,300 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,300 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 16 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in more than 9 million pounds—more than 4,500 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. 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.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 23, 2021 Take Back Day event, go to www.DEATakeBack.com or contact Ofc Rhoades at 860-891-8200.