

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition coordinates prevention education
workshop by Nassau County Police Department
“Opiate Evolution to the Perfect Storm” to the Glen Cove High
School’s Senior Class**

***Detective Pamela Stark addressed the growing Opiate/Heroin Epidemic across
the County***

Left to Right: Anthony Gallo, SAFE Glen Cove Coalition Co-Chair, Detective Pamela Stark, Nassau County Police Department, Ashley Ferrufino, SAFE Coalition Liaison and members of the Glen Cove High School Senior Class.

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, Glen Cove Police Department and Nassau County Police Department recognizes the growing trend of opiate/heroin abuse spreading across Long Island. In an effort to combat the increasing number of opiate abusers and fatal overdoses occurring Nassau County Police Department Community Affairs office is providing awareness presentations across the county to students, parents, community members and professionals.

While trends across Long Island have indicated an overall increase in opiate use prescription drug use, Glen Cove is on a downslide among students. There is still potential, however for any youth to engage in abuse. According to the Bach- Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment that was given to students in grades 6, 8, 10, & 12, in 2014, the lifetime rate of prescription narcotic abuse has increased for students in the 10th grade. Results also indicated the 10th grade lifetime use rate of prescription narcotics has increased from 2.6% in 2012 to 4.3% in 2014. The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition monitors substance abuse trends through regular needs assessments to prevent and reduce use.

On June 3, 2015, Detective Pamela Stark of Nassau County Police Department in conjunction with the Coalition's School Committee Chaired by Denise Kiernan, Director of Health and Physical Education for the Glen Cove School District, visited the senior class at Glen Cove High School to deliver an important message about prescription drug misuse and abuse.

The program’s PowerPoint presentation addressed the dangers of opiate abuse, and the alarming trends that indicate an increase in the incidence of opiate related admissions to treatment

facilities, emergency room visits and fatal overdoses. Detective Stark discussed warning signs and dangers associated with substance abuse. She addressed the increasing potency of street drugs today and warned students that drugs including Marijuana are often laced with other substances including heroin in order to “hook” the consumer. “Weed is expensive on the street, and heroin is cheap” Stark stated speaking to how users unknowingly become addicted to heroin among other illicit drugs.

Students were exposed to real life cases including one in which a Massapequa High School senior fatally overdosed on heroin shortly before her senior graduation in 2008. Detective Stark sought to show students the real life and potentially fatal dangers associated with substance use. She encouraged students to seek medical assistance in cases where a potential over dose is suspected without fear of arrest under the Good Samaritan Law.

Education and raising awareness among youth and community members are key to preventing future use and overdoses. The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition encourages parents to become educated on resources available to family members at the Safe office room #204 City Hall who may be struggling with addiction.

For more information about SAGFE, Inc., the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, SAFE's SAFE Rides Program or other SAFE initiatives contact SAFE at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at <http://www.safeglencove.org> or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition>.