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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SAFE Glen Cove Coalition Encourages the Community to Dispose of Unwanted Prescription Medication**

Every year, SAFE, The City of Glen Cove Mayor's office, Glen Cove Police Department and Glen Cove EMS partner on an event entitled "Shed Your Med's. This prevention program follows the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Take Back Day – a day that addresses abuse of controlled prescription drugs.

Abuse of prescription medication has become a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. According the National Institute of Drug Abuse, every day more than 115 Americans die after overdosing on opioids. The misuse of and addiction to opioids – including prescription pain relievers and had become a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment and criminal justice involvement.

In 2014 the DEA made a final rule regarding the disposal of pharmaceutical controlled substances in accordance with the Controlled Substance Act (CSA) to give them authority to promulgate new regulations that will allow a person who has lawfully obtained, and who possesses, a controlled substance for his own use or for the use of a member of his household or for an animal owned by him or a member of his household to deliver unused pharmaceutical controlled substances to appropriate entities for disposal in a safe and effective manner. Shed Your Med's provides an opportunity for individuals to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. This year's Shed Your Med's" event took place on Saturday October 24th from 10-1am at the Glen Cove Police Department. Over 100 lbs. of unwanted medications were collected.

Personal home medication disposal kits named Deterra were provided by the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and given to all those who came to dispose of their unwanted medications. The kit allows individuals to safely dispose at home in between Shed Your Meds events. Kits are available at the SAFE office.

For more Information about the DEA please visit

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/fact\\_sheets/disposal\\_public.pdf](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/fact_sheets/disposal_public.pdf).

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled, "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on [www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](https://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition) or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at [www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org)