



County of San Diego

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2010 APR 22 AM 11:49
THOMAS
CLERK OF BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: April 27, 2010
TO: Board of Supervisors
SUBJECT: Reduce Drug Use and Save Lives: Prescription Drug Drop Off Program

SUMMARY:

Overview:

This Board Letter asks the Board to direct the Chief Administrative Officer, in coordination with the Sheriff and County Counsel to draft an ordinance that will enable the Sheriff to operate a network of approximately twenty-two prescription drug drop off boxes. The boxes will be strategically placed in the county unincorporated area and in the nine cities that contract for law enforcement services from the Sheriff. The boxes will be placed in Sheriff's facilities, such as substations or jails. Citizens can drop off unwanted prescription drugs. This will help keep these drugs out of the hands of teenagers and others who might use them improperly for the purpose of getting high. Disposal sites also help to keep these drugs out of the hands of criminals who might sell them. Proper disposal prevents dangerous environmental pollution. Expired and unused prescription drug disposal is in the best interests of the community.

Recommendation(s):

CHAIRWOMAN PAM SLATER-PRICE & SHERIFF BILL GORE:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Sheriff's Department and County Counsel to return to the Board within 30 days with a draft ordinance for consideration by the Board that will authorize the Sheriff to possess controlled substances in the performance of his duties pursuant to the purposes and provisions of Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations section 1301.24.

Fiscal Impact:

The Sheriff's Department and the Chairwoman's Neighborhood Reinvestment Fund will pay for the cost of the drop off boxes and placement.

Business Impact Statement:

N/A

Advisory Impact Statement:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

From the very first limited DEA authorized prescription drug Take Back Day sponsored by the Oxy Task Force of San Diego County, of which we are both a member - it became clear to us that permanent, accessible and safe drop off sites for unused, expired prescription drugs are needed.

Take Back Days are days in which citizens can drop off these drugs, leaving them with Sheriff's personnel for safe disposal, no questions asked.

We have both attended two Saturday Take Back Days, one in Del Mar, one in Encinitas. Several locations were open to the public both days. The last Take Back Day was held just recently on April 17, 2010. Six sites were open at the same time in Poway, El Cajon, Chula Vista, Oceanside, the downtown County Administration Center, and as mentioned, Encinitas.

In just four hours on the first Take Back Day the Sheriff's Department collected 322 pounds of prescription medications from all locations. Citizens brought in grocery bags of old medications they had saved up for years.

On the second collection day - perhaps now that citizens were more aware of the Take Back Day and felt more comfortable dropping off their prescription drugs - the Sheriff's Department collected 2,500 pounds of prescription drugs.

As we all know, pills are small. To amass more than a ton of prescription medications is an incredible number of pills. Those drugs could have easily fallen into the wrong hands and led to abuse, addiction or worse - death.

Additionally, improperly disposing of prescription drugs, such as flushing them down the toilet or dumping the drugs in the trash which is then carted off to our landfills, can cause significant water pollution dangerous to humans and our ecosystem.

A good percentage of the drugs dropped off at our Take Back Days were addictive narcotics including methadone, morphine and OxyContin, a brand name prescription painkiller popular among youth to get high.

All the drugs will be destroyed and properly disposed.

Once the ordinance gives authorization to the Sheriff to carry out this program, approximately twenty-two collection boxes will be strategically placed around the county in Sheriff's facilities such as Substations or jails. The boxes are made of metal and operate somewhat like mail boxes. The boxes will be anchored to the floor inside the facilities. Location alone will act as a deterrent to the boxes being lassoed, tied to a pickup truck and stolen like an ATM machine.

We will partner to fund buying the Drop Off boxes, including delivery and installation.

To begin this process we are asking the Board to join us in directing the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Sheriff and County Counsel to return to the Board within 30 days with a draft ordinance for consideration by the Board that will authorize the Sheriff to possess unwanted or expired Pharmaceutical Controlled substances, commonly referred to as prescription drugs, in the performance of his duties pursuant to the purposes and provisions of Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations section 1301.24.

This will allow the Drop Off Box program to get started. The Sheriff and the County will enter into an RFP process, then once a vendor is chosen, the boxes will be bought and installed at Sheriff's facilities. Our goals through this ordinance and this new, innovative Drop Off Box program, is to reduce drug use, provide safe disposal, and SAVE LIVES.

Respectfully submitted,



PAM SLATER-PRICE
Chairwoman, Third District



WILLIAM D. GORE
Sheriff, San Diego County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM
INFORMATION SHEET

SUBJECT: Reduce Drug Use and Save Lives: Prescription Drug Drop Off Program

SUPV. DIST.: Three

COUNTY COUNSEL APPROVAL: Form and Legality

Yes N/A

Standard Form Ordinance Resolution

Review Board Letter Only: Yes No

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REVIEW: Yes No

4 VOTES: Yes

No

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES Yes No

CONTRACT REVIEW PANEL: Approved N/A

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTION: N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE: N/A

CITIZEN COMMITTEE STATEMENT: N/A

CONCURRENCES: N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District Three

CONTACT PERSON:

John Weil, District Three
531-5533 MS A500

Lt. Todd Richardson, Sheriff's Dept.
(858) 694-3300

DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
April 27, 2010

MEETING DATE: