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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM EXPANSION

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, Douglass Township Police Barry Templin, Jr., Lower Moreland Township Police Chief Peter C. Hasson and Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Chief Michael Foltz announce the expansion of the Montgomery County Prescription Drug Disposal Program.

The Prescription Drug Disposal Program began in April 2013 with ten (10) permanent prescription drug collection and disposal sites across the County. At each location, the public can safely, confidentially and conveniently dispose of their unused, unwanted or expired medications at no cost all year long.

The public's response has been extraordinary – more than 2,500 pounds of drugs have been collected to date. Due to high demand, collection sites have recently opened at the Douglass, Lower Moreland and Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Departments, expanding the disposal program to 13 (thirteen) locations throughout the County. Eight (8) additional locations are expected to open in the near future with support from the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association.

Local, state and federal law enforcement authorities work together to ensure that all drugs are destroyed in a legal and environmentally friendly manner. All costs needed to establish and maintain the program are being shared by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and participating law enforcement agencies, with additional support provided from DEA and public interest groups.

According to DA Ferman, "Our law enforcement professionals recognize the steady growth of prescription drug abuse in the community, particularly among our youth. We have seen time and again that addiction often begins with minors stealing powerful narcotics from their parents' medicine cabinets. This includes Oxycontin, Percocet and many other highly addictive prescription medications. We have seen many teens turn from underage drinking parties to "pharm parties," where they collect whatever pills they can steal from home medicine cabinets and share them with their friends. Once addicted, these young addicts will do anything necessary to obtain more drugs, whether purchasing pills at a very high price from drug dealers, shopping for dishonest doctors who will write fraudulent prescriptions, or even shifting their usage to less expensive street drugs such as heroin. Unfortunately, it is well documented that prescription drug abuse can quickly lead to addiction, other criminal activity and even death. The only way to truly make an impact in reducing this epidemic of prescription drug addiction is to focus on prevention efforts."

Approved for release,

Risa Vetri Ferman

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL LOCATIONS

1. Montgomery County Courthouse (Main)

Airy and Swede Streets, Norristown, PA (at both public entrances between 8:30 am and 4:15 pm, Mon through Fri)

2. Abington Police Department

1166 Old York Road, Abington, PA (24/7)

3. Douglass Township Police Department

1320 E. Philadelphia Avenue, Gilbertsville, PA (8:00a-4:00p, Mon. through Fri.)

4. Franconia Police Department

671 Allentown Road, Franconia, PA (24/7)

5. Hatfield Police Department

2000 School Road, Hatfield, PA (24 hrs/day, Mon. through Fri.)

6. Limerick Police Department

646 West Ridge Pike, Limerick, PA (8:00a – 4:00p, Mon. through Fri.)

7. Lower Merion Police Department

71 East Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore, PA (24/7)

8. Lower Moreland Police Department

640 Red Lion Rd., Huntington Valley, PA (7:00a-10:30p, Mon. through Fri.)

9. Lower Pottsgrove Police Department

2199 Buchert Rd., Pottstown, PA (8:00a-4:00p, Mon. through Fri.)

10. Pottstown Police Department

100 E. High Street, Pottstown, PA (24/7)

11. Souderton Police Department

31 W. Summit Street, Souderton, PA (24/7)

12. Upper Merion Police Department

175 W. Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia, PA (24/7)