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DA'S OFFICE UNVEILS MOBILE DRUG TAKE BACK CAR FOR COLLECTING UNWANTED MEDICINES ALL OVER MONTGOMERY COUNTY

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (August 3, 2018) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced a new avenue for fighting the heroin-opioid epidemic—"The Pill Take Back Mobile MINI," a mobile Drug Take Back car that contains a MedReturn Box able to accept unwanted and expired medicines wherever people gather.



Courthouse Comfort Dog Drives the Mobile Mini



Pill Take Back Mobile Mini Rear

"This MINI Cooper is an extension of the Drug Take Back Days we do twice a year. Instead of waiting for that day in April and October to drop off medicines and pills, the Pill Car will be showing up at events across the county in an attempt to make it as easy as possible for Montgomery County residents to get unwanted and expired medicine out of their medicine cabinets and make their homes safer," said Steele.

The Pill Take Back Mobile MINI car will debut at four of next week's "National Night Out" events. Each of these events run from 5 to 9 p.m.:

Monday, Aug. 6: Abington's "National Night Out"

Tuesday, Aug. 7: Lower Merion's "National Night Out"

Thursday, Aug. 9: Bridgeport's "National Night Out"

Friday, Aug. 10: Hatboro's "National Night Out."

The Pill Take Back Mobile MINI was made possible through donations. The Mini Cooper car was donated by ARS Affordable Auto in Norristown, and the graphics on the MINI Cooper are courtesy of Edge Signs & Graphics in Collegeville. Like many of the MedReturn Boxes in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania American Water is a sponsor of the Pill Take Back Mobile MINI.



DA Steele with Officials from American Water

“We are happy to collaborate with Montgomery County DA Steele and local law enforcement in making this car possible,” said Terry M. Maenza, director of communications and external affairs for Pennsylvania American Water. “The best, most cost-effective way to ensure quality drinking water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. We are long-time supporters of these pharma collection efforts because they ensure the environmentally safe disposal of unused drugs while helping us spread the message: ‘Don’t flush drugs down the toilet, where they can end up in our water sources.’”

Dubbed “the Pill Car” for short, the eye-catching vehicle will be making future appearances at local events throughout Montgomery County and is available on request by organizations and groups. The Pill Take Back Mobile MINI will be driven by a Montgomery County detective, who will oversee all drug collections. To schedule a visit by the Pill Car, residents can call Montgomery County Detective Bureau at 610-278-3368.

Since the Drug Take Back program began in Montgomery County in 2010, more than 50,000 pounds of unwanted medicines have been collected and safely disposed of. In addition to twice annual Drug Take Back Days, permanent collection boxes are located in nearly all police departments in Montgomery County. The complete list of permanent locations, as well as items accepted by the Pill Car and at stationary MedReturn boxes, can be found on the District Attorney’s Office website at <https://www.montcopa.org/da>.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele