



PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE of the MAYOR | RALPH BECKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Urges Residents to Dispose of Unused, Expired Medications *Drug Take Back Day aimed at helping to protect the community and environment*

SALT LAKE CITY – Mayor Ralph Becker is pleased to announce his Coalition on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs will partner with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement agencies to host Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Abbie Vianes, director of the Mayor's Coalition, notes that the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that more than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends and frequently those medications are found in home medicine cabinets. Vianes said it is also becoming more common for people to flush medication down the toilet—a practice that has led to contamination issues in municipal water treatment facilities.

"We want to protect our children and environment by reducing accessibility to prescription and over-the-counter drugs," said Mayor Becker. "I encourage residents to participate in the Drug Take Back Day event and safely dispose of expired or unused medications."

Two collection sites will be available to residents during the event including the east entrance of the Salt Lake City & County Building, 451 S. State St. and the parking lot of Smith's Food and Drug at 828 S. 900 West in Salt Lake City. Residents will be able to drive through at either location to drop off their unused medications for incineration.

The Salt Lake City Mayor's Coalition is a proactive force promoting healthy life choices and working to create a community free from the harm caused by alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

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