



## Join Together Atlantic County

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MEDIA ALERT

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### **The Somers Point Police Department Acquires Permanent Prescription Drop Box**

Today, Join Together Atlantic County (JTAC) awarded the Somers Point Police Department with an American Medicine Chest Challenge (AMCC) permanent prescription drop box for the disposal of unused, unwanted, and expiration medications. The box is located inside the Somers Point Police Department at 1 W New Jersey Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244. It will be available to the public during normal business hours or when a police officer is present at the station. For additional information residents may contact the police department at (609)927-6161 or visit <http://www.somerspointgov.org/police/> for additional information.

Somers Point Police Chief Michael Boyd, Lt. Anthony Disciascio and Brian Wilson of Join Together Atlantic County worked together to provide a prescription drop box to the Somers Point community. With the installation of this drop box we are adding additional resources to our fight against drug abuse and especially the opiate crisis. We invite our residents, businesses and other partners in our community program to use the drop box to prevent dangerous medications from falling into the hands of children or persons suffering from addiction.

Permanent drop boxes and the awareness campaigns surrounding them are an important part of reducing the abuse of prescription medication. When left around the house unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to abuse, environmental harm and accidental poisoning. 2 in 5 teenagers believe prescription drugs are "much safer" than illegal drugs. Every day in the U.S. 2,500 youths take a prescription pain reliever for the purpose of getting high for the first time. The abuse of prescription pain killers is the leading cause of heroin abuse. Unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold. Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply. Proper disposal of prescription drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

The prescription drop box was purchased from the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey by Join Together Atlantic County JTAC, a substance abuse prevention coalition. The coalition is funded by a DFC (Drug Free Communities) grant from the ONDCP (Offices of National Drug Control Policy) and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). For more information about JTAC please visit [www.jtac.org](http://www.jtac.org) or call 609-272-0100.

Brian Wilson challenges families to take a Five- Step American Medicine Chest Challenge:

- Take inventory of your prescription and over-the-counter medicine.
- Secure your medicine chest.
- Dispose of your unused, unwanted, and expired medicine in your home or at an American Medicine Chest Challenge Disposal site.
- Take your medicine(s) exactly as prescribed.
- Talk to your children about the dangers or prescription drug abuse.

For more information, visit [www.americanmedicinechest.com](http://www.americanmedicinechest.com) or call 609-909-7214