

2014 Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month

WHEREAS, There were more deaths caused by drug overdoses in 2010 than traffic accidents among people 25 to 64 years old; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, drug overdoses in the United States caused 38,329 deaths and 22,134 of those were from prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans aged 12 or older used an illicit drug or abused a prescription drug in the past month; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals (an increase of 98.4% since 2004); and

WHEREAS, nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs health insurers up to \$27.5 billion annually in direct health-care costs; and

WHEREAS, overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers (OPR) now exceed more deaths than heroin and cocaine combined; and

WHEREAS, as many as 70% of people who abuse prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a doctor; and

WHEREAS, Americans that participated in the DEA's seventh National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 26, 2013, turned in more than 647,211 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 4,114 take-back sites that were available in all 50 states and U.S. territories. When the results of all seven Take-Back Days are combined, the DEA, and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed 3.4 million pounds of medication from circulation; and

WHEREAS, families, schools, businesses, faith-based communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and local governments, health care practitioners and pharmacists of Contra Costa County, City of Oakley and general public will demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription medication abuse by participating in activities intended to highlight local efforts during the month of March; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakley, supports April 26, 2014 as "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day" as declared by the DEA and encourages residents to locate their local collection site and safely dispose of their accumulated, unwanted, unused prescription drugs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Randy Pope, Mayor of the City of Oakley declares March 2014 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, and encourages all citizens to participate in prevention programs and activities; and to safely store and dispose of their medications on a continual basis.

Date: February 11, 2014

Randy Pope, Mayor