PRESS RELEASE

Westerly Police Department

FROM: Chief Edward W. St.Clair

DATE: 11/5/12

SUBJECT: Drug Return Box

Over the past several years, the Drug Enforcement Administration has sponsored a yearly "National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day". Local police departments, in conjunction with substance abuse prevention agencies, have collected unwanted, expired or left-over prescription medications during a specific time period and turned the drugs over to DEA for disposal. This initiative has been hugely successful in the fight to stop prescription drug abuse.

The Westerly Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, through the efforts of Coordinator Mary Lou Serra, sought a more permanent solution to the disposal of these medications and offered us the funds to do so.

The Westerly Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force and the Westerly Police Department have now installed a Med Return drug collection box in the lobby of the Police Headquarters at 60 Airport Road.

The Med Return collection unit will provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal for unwanted, unused or out-dated medications. The unit will be available in the lobby of the Police Station 24 hours a day.

Acceptable items for disposal include:

- Prescription medications and samples
- All over-the-counter medications
- Vitamins
- Pet medications
- Medicated ointments

Items *not* acceptable for disposal:

- Thermometers/Sharps/Syringes
- IV bags
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Aerosol cans
- Inhalers
- EpiPens

Edward W. St.Clair
Chief of Police