
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Alderman Michael J. Murphy
(414) 286-3763

Alderman James A. Bohl
(414) 286-2219

Alderman Murphy and Alderman Bohl partner with the Milwaukee Fire Department to reduce opioid crisis

Alderman Michael J. Murphy and Alderman Jim Bohl express their gratitude to the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) for their efforts on expanding the Medication Turn-in Program. Ald. Murphy and Ald. Bohl partnered with MFD and various other agencies to provide addressed postage-paid envelopes for citizens to properly dispose of extra or unused prescription medication. Prescription medication is often the way people develop opioid addictions.

Thirty Milwaukee fire stations will maintain a stock of envelopes; anyone interested in one can simply ring a fire station doorbell and request one. Envelopes will later be sorted and safely disposed of to keep the drugs out of the waterways.

Both aldermen have been passionate about reducing the opioid crisis in the Milwaukee area. This initiative is one more way to reduce a gateway to the drug by taking it off the street. In 2017, **503** pounds of drugs were collected. Since the inception of the program **550** pounds were collected.

Ald. Murphy said, "It is essential that we take steps to reduce this public health crisis wherever possible. This program takes the guess work and cost out of disposing of these drugs. I was thrilled to partner alongside the Milwaukee Fire Department."

Ald. Bohl said, "The drug return envelopes provide a safe and anonymous way to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs rather than have them abused or improperly thrown away. Adding thirty MFD fire stations to all CVS Pharmacy sites and police stations in Milwaukee and Cudahy will only increase accessibility to residents of this useful drug disposal option. I'm grateful to MFD for their efforts in assisting the expansion of the program, as I am with the program's ongoing funding partners in CVS Pharmacy, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, and US Bank."

The Medication Turn-in Program is also a cost savings to area residents who would normally pay \$3.60 to mail in unwanted medication.

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