



**TO:** Robert W. Healy, City Manager  
**FROM:** Claude-Alix Jacob, Chief Public Health Officer  
**DATE:** April 27, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Response to Policy Order #4, adopted 2/28/11

**Excerpt of Order:** The City Manager be and hereby is requested to publicize the Prescription Drug Disposal Drop Off program more clearly on the Police Department website; and be it further that City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the Council on other potential drop off sites in other parts of the city, perhaps the Water Department. (For full text: [www2.cambridgema.gov/cityClerk/PolicyOrder.cfm?action=search&item\\_id=31267](http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityClerk/PolicyOrder.cfm?action=search&item_id=31267).)

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The Cambridge Police Department, the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, and the Cambridge Public Health Department provide Cambridge residents the opportunity to dispose of prescription drugs in a safe and environmentally-friendly manner. These disposal opportunities include:

- A permanent drop-box at the Cambridge Police Department, 125 Sixth Street, available to residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The police department also serves as the city's official site for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Collection Day.
- Free postage-paid mailers for Cambridge residents to send unwanted or unused prescription medicines to a company that will dispose of them properly under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency license. Residents can obtain mailers by calling the Cambridge Prevention Coalition (617-349-6283) or the Cambridge Public Health Department (617-665-3848). The Cambridge Prevention Coalition also distributes the mailers to sites that serve Cambridge seniors (see below).
- Collection of unused or unwanted prescription drugs by the Cambridge Police Department at the Department of Public Works' Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days, which are held three times a year. The remaining dates for 2011 are Saturday June, 4 and Saturday, Oct. 1.

In response to the Council order, the Cambridge Police Department, the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, and the Cambridge Public Health Department have enhanced information on their respective websites and increased external communication to residents regarding the disposal program:

- The Cambridge Police Department has added a link on its homepage. In addition, the Cambridge Police Department, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, Cambridge Public Health Department, and the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, has issued press releases about the city's prescription collection program prior to DPW Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days and National Prescription Drug Collection Day.

The Cambridge Police Department also provides information about the prescription disposal program at Neighborhood Sergeants meetings, during the police department update on CCTV, and at other community events.



- The Cambridge Prevention Coalition has added information about prescription drug disposal in the resources section of [www.odprevention.org](http://www.odprevention.org), a website sponsored by the Overdose Prevention & Education Network, a project of the CPC.
- The Cambridge Public Health Department has added a link on its homepage to information about prescription drug disposal.

The Cambridge Prevention Coalition continues to work with programs in the city to promote the current disposal opportunities. These include, but are not limited to: visits to the two senior centers to distribute free postage-paid mailers to interested residents; distributing the mailers through the Citywide Senior Center food pantry and the Food for Free program; and distributing flyers and brochures about the program around the city.

Regarding the proposal to identify other potential drop-off sites in city, it should be noted that all drop-off sites must be approved by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Very few, if any, additional sites in Cambridge would satisfy the DEA's current strict security criteria governing collection sites. Any additional sites would require approval from the DEA through the Cambridge Police Department.

The Cambridge Prevention Coalition continues to work with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Abuse Services to explore other options for increasing residents' ability to safely dispose of prescription medicines.