

## **2016 PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, In 2014, 47,055 drug overdose deaths occurred, more than during any previous year on record; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2014, opioids, including prescription painkillers and heroin, were involved in 28,647 deaths, or 61% of all drug overdose deaths; and

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

**WHEREAS**, In 2014, there were approximately one and a half times more drug overdose deaths in the United States than deaths from motor vehicle crashes among people 25-64 years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, Drug misuse and abuse caused about 2.5 million emergency department (ED) visits in 2011 and more than 1.4 of these were related to prescription drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2014, about 15 million people aged 12 or older used prescription drugs non-medically in the past year, and 6.5 million did so in the past month; and

**WHEREAS**, Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health-care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, A new California statute makes naloxone, a lifesaving overdose rescue medication, available from pharmacists without a prescription for community members to have on hand to emergently reverse opioid overdoses in people at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) with buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone is available to assist people in recovering from their opioid substance use disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, While health care systems and practitioners are adopting guidelines for more cautious prescribing and handling of prescription pain medication, more effort is yet needed to address the epidemic of opioid abuse, heroin addiction and drug overdose in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Since September 2010, a total of 5,525,021 pounds of expired and unwanted medication has been removed from circulation and possible diversion by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) during its National Prescription Drug Take Back Days in cooperation with its state, local, tribal law-enforcement and community partners. The City of Oakley supports April 30, 2016 as the next "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 unwanted, unused prescription drugs on that day; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** I, Kevin Romick, Mayor of the City of Oakley on behalf of the City Council does hereby declare March, 2016 as **PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH** and that all community members are encouraged to pledge, "Spread the Word... One Pill Can Kill.

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Kevin Romick, Mayor