

## Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 EAST ERIE STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3154

312.751.5600

**Debra Shore**

Commissioner

312.751.5690 f: 312.751.2805

debra.shore@mwr.org

October 27, 2016

Greetings Carol –

I am thrilled to report that the Cook County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Wednesday, October 26 in favor of *An Ordinance Governing Safe Disposal of Pharmaceuticals* (Cook County #16-1983). All members of the Board asked to be added as co-sponsors. The ordinance included several significant changes from the version originally introduced in March, but the goals and framework of the original proposed ordinance remain in place.

Here are the key elements:

- The ordinance will help to address a significant threat to public health and safety by providing residents throughout Cook County with safe, secure collection sites to dispose of their unused or expired meds, and will keep these chemicals from getting into groundwater or rivers and streams.
- The measure will support efforts to address the current inequitable distribution of collection sites by expanding into “collection deserts” in southern and southwestern Cook County.
- Under the supervision of the Cook County Sheriff, the program can now work with pharmacies and encourage them to become collection sites on a voluntary basis – these are the locations that people most prefer.
- The measure establishes an Advisory Board with representatives from the Cook County Department of Public Health, the Cook County Department of Environmental Control, the Sheriff’s Office, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, pharmaceutical producers, and consumers to oversee the program. The President of the Cook County Board will appoint the pharmaceutical and consumer representatives.

- The measure will provide mail-back envelopes free of charge to people who don't drive or who are shut-ins.
- The ordinance establishes a framework for a sustainable producer-funded program. Fees assessed to pharmaceutical manufacturers to recover the costs of the program can be established once the actual costs of the program are documented.
- The measure takes effect on January 1, 2017, although the Cook County Board of Commissioners will have until July 1, 2018 to set a fee for producers that will recover program costs.

If you can, please thank the chief sponsor, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, for his tireless work on behalf of this measure, as well as the other members of the County Board for their support.

We will still have a lot of work to do to ensure that the expanded program is promoted and successful and that the public learns about nearby collection sites. I look forward to working with you on this worthy initiative.

Onward!

With sincere thanks for your efforts thus far to shepherd this measure to passage,

I am,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Shore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debra Shore