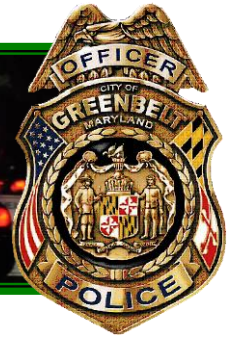


# **GREENBELT POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**AUGUST 20, 2015**

**1:14 P.M.**

### **International Overdose Awareness Day**

The Greenbelt Police Department will be joining other law enforcement agencies, government entities and activist groups from around the world in recognizing and spotlighting the growing epidemic of drug overdose incidents victimizing so many people everywhere. On August 31st 2015 the Greenbelt Police Department, Greenbelt CARES and concerned citizens who have dedicated themselves to reducing these tragic occurrences will be partnering in order to raise awareness and share important information regarding this increasingly devastating situation. The fact that Maryland Governor Larry Hogan has initiated a State of Emergency, to include creating a special Statewide Task Force specifically to help address the alarming increase in heroin overdose deaths, merely underscores the true significance of this day. Unfortunately not immune to such State and National trends, Greenbelt has experienced this emergency first hand to include suffering two unrelated heroin overdose deaths not long ago.

An information desk will be set up in the Greenbelt Police Station lobby during the day and evening on August 31st with material available to all regarding recognition, intervention and treatment related to drug abuse and addiction. As an extension of this effort, citizens who have experienced the terrible results of family members struggling with drug addiction first hand along with other concerned friends and neighbors will be staffing the Greenbelt Police Public Safety Information Outreach Booth during a portion of the upcoming Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

Please make it a point to learn about how to become more aware and potentially help to reduce the debilitating and all too often fatal results of drug abuse and addiction.

*PREPARED BY:*

*George Mathews, Media Liaison*

*240-508-0238/[GMATHEWS@GREENBELTMD.GOV](mailto:GMATHEWS@GREENBELTMD.GOV)*



***A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY***