

Member, Board of Supervisor  
District 5



City and County of San Francisco

## LONDON N. BREED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 25, 2015

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### **President Breed's Landmark Drug Take-Back Legislation Faces Its First Vote Tomorrow**

**San Francisco, CA**— San Francisco Board of Supervisors President London Breed's landmark drug take-back legislation will be up for debate and its first vote Thursday morning at the Government Audit and Oversight Committee, City Hall Chambers, Room 250, at 10:30 AM. We expect a large number of commenters.

Here is a brief statement from President Breed:

“Expired and unwanted medications pollute the Bay and ocean if they are flushed, can pollute groundwater if they are thrown in the garbage, and contribute to addiction, misuse, or poisonings if they are left in the home. My legislation would require drug manufacturers to fund and operate full drug collection programs, just as they do throughout Europe, Colombia, Brazil and directly to our north and south in Canada and Mexico. Consumers could simply place their medications in secure drop-off bins in pharmacies, or return them by mail, all at no cost and without any increase in drug prices. These programs are surprisingly cheap to operate, yet many drug producers are and have been fiercely opposed to funding them in California.

San Francisco has been operating a small drug disposal pilot program for about three years. In that time, our pilot, which now includes 13 pharmacies and all 10 of The City's police stations, has safely collected 23.5 tons of medicine. That is 47,000 pounds of chemicals that will not end up in our Bay or groundwater because of this program. Clearly, San Franciscans want safe medicine disposal and will use it if it is free and convenient. Imagine how much more we could collect and properly dispose of if we could afford to include more than just 13 pharmacies.

Alameda County actually adopted the first law in the country requiring drug manufacturers to administer and fund medicine collection programs. The industry sued and lost, in both the lower federal court and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. If San Francisco passes a drug disposal law, the industry may sue us, too. They certainly have a lot of skilled lawyers. But so do we. And we have the precedent of Alameda County's wins, along with the support of a city that is not easily intimidated. San Francisco won't back down from protecting our environment or public safety.”