



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

October 4, 2011

### **Captain Daniel Alioto Appointed to Maryland's Prescription Drug Abuse and Prevention Monitoring Program Advisory Board**

In May of 2011 Governor Martin O'Malley signed a new law creating a statewide Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The program includes a multi-disciplinary advisory board which makes recommendations on the design and implementation of the program. The Board is comprised of state health officials, physicians, pharmacists and law enforcement. Captain Daniel Alioto, Commander of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Vice/Narcotics Division, was chosen as Maryland's law enforcement representative to the Advisory Board.

According to Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in Maryland. Between 2007 and 2010, treatment admissions related to abuse of prescription opiates in Maryland increased 106 percent, poison control calls related to oxycodone increased 250 percent and in 2010, 55 percent of all intoxication deaths in Maryland involved a prescription opiate.

The Prescription Drug Abuse and Prevention Monitoring Program will link public health and public safety systems and provide for information-sharing which will enable professionals to track use of prescription drugs and recognize trends indicating abuse. The new system will detect individuals who "doctor shop" to accumulate prescription drug which are later sold illegally. Law enforcement officials, with a subpoena, will have the capability to draw on information from the system and follow up with appropriate criminal investigations.

"I understand and accept this tremendous opportunity to be a part of the advisory board. I am excited to get started on the prescription drug monitoring program as this will be a major tool utilized by law enforcement as we move ahead combating the growing prescription drug abuse issues." (Captain Daniel Alioto)

"Captain Alioto's appointment speaks volumes about the work he and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office's Vice/Narcotics Unit are doing to detect and prevent the abuse of prescription drugs. Congratulations Captain Alioto. (Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron)

