

MOTION

AUG 14 2007

The City of Los Angeles' foremost responsibility is to ensure the safety of its residents, especially children, the most vulnerable members of our society. While law enforcement continues to make significant strides in its capacity to protect our children, numerous threats to their safety persist.

The City of Los Angeles is home to 3,821 registered sexual offenders, according to the California Attorney General's Megan's Law Sex Offender. Many more lurk in our communities, compromising our children's safety.

The immediate threat posed by sexual predators was recently highlighted by the well-publicized admissions of Jack J. McLellan. McLellan, a self-proclaimed pedophile advocate, told several media outlets that he is sexually attracted to young girls and would have sex with them if it were legal. Mr. McLellan has been spotted in public places frequented by children, including the children's section of the Santa Monica Public Library.

Mr. McLellan has also operated a website designed to reach a wide audience of child molesters and to arm them with information that could directly lead them to identifying and assaulting children. The website included pictures of children, and posted ratings of the best public locations--including public parks and community festivals--where children could be located and victimized.

The City of Los Angeles has laws in place that criminalize "lookouts," or guards, that assist in the commission of illegal acts. In the age of information technology--and in light of the proliferation of websites of the kind operated by McLellan--it is clear that an individual need not be *physically* present in order to assist a criminal in performing a crime. It is time to update our laws accordingly.

Assemblymember Cameron Smyth (R-Santa Clarita) hopes to address this issue at the State level through legislation that would criminalize "surrogate stalking," or knowingly assisting pedophiles in victimizing children. "Surrogate stalking" would extend to assisting child molesters in identifying potential victims over the internet.

The City must also act immediately to better protect our children by criminalizing "surrogate stalking," including over the internet, here in Los Angeles.

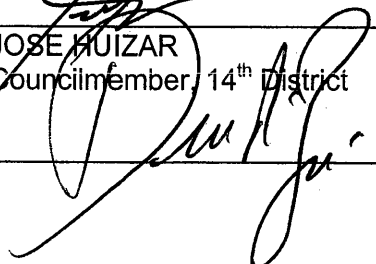
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney's Office report back to the Public Safety Committee on the feasibility adopting a City ordinance criminalizing "surrogate stalking" while we await the introduction and passage of State legislation;

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAPD report back to the Public Safety Committee on its activities relative to monitoring sexual predators and how it coordinates with County, State, and Federal law enforcement.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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JOSE HUIZAR  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

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