

MOTION PUBLIC SAFETY

Recently, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) was informed that an estimated 47 sex offenders were living in an apartment complex in the City. This cluster of sex offenders was in close proximity to a local high school. Although the individuals were all immediately relocated, this incident highlights the need for better tracking and monitoring of sex offenders. With over 5,000 sex offenders in the City, 923 of whom are on parole, incidents like the one described above will continue to take place if we do not improve our tracking capabilities.

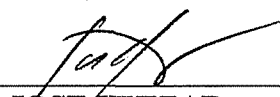
Currently, there are various sex offender databases. The California Department of Justice maintains the Megan's Law sex offender database that is available for the public. LAPD's sex offender monitoring team, the Registration Enforcement and Compliance Team (REACT), monitors the City's registered sex offenders through its internal "290 database." The City Attorney's Safe Neighborhoods Division uses its Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program (CNAP) database in conjunction with the 290 database to monitor sex offenders.

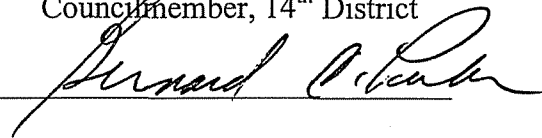
To make matters more complicated, there are three different categories of sex offenders depending on the severity and date of their crimes. Some individuals are also on parole and may have additional restrictions placed on them regarding where they can reside. Ideally, the LAPD and City Attorney would have GIS software to keep track of all sex offenders, differentiated by category and parole status, with locations of schools, parks and other important landmarks clearly indicated. Some of this information should be available to Council offices, particularly the location of large concentrations of sex offenders.

In July of 2006 the LAPD was requested to team up with the City Attorney, County Department of Probation and California State Probation Department to develop a comprehensive database of all parole violators residing in the City who are known sex offenders or violent criminals (CF#06-1648). The LAPD responded in January of 2007 that they regularly check the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's website to get information about sex offenders who have been released within the prior 60 days.

Although some sex offenders are required to adhere to certain residency restrictions, it is not illegal for several offenders to live in an apartment complex. Research shows that this often works better for law enforcement as it makes it easier to track individuals. The City should take steps to better track and monitor where sex offenders live so that we can inform law enforcement agencies about nearby facilities like proposed new schools that may make certain locations inappropriate. This may require adding technological capabilities to the existing database.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the LAPD, Information Technology Agency and City Attorney to report on: 1) current procedures and legal limitations associated with monitoring sex offenders; 2) how a sex offender cluster is defined; 3) the feasibility of automatically notifying Council Offices of the existence of a sex offender cluster in their district; and 4) any other recommendations for improving sex offender database monitoring capabilities.

PRESENTED BY: 
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