

MOTION

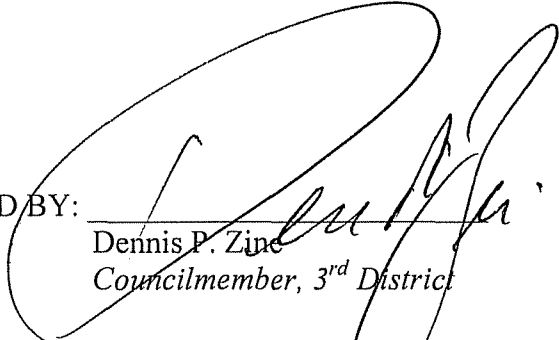
DEC 04 2009

Existing state law places a number of restrictions on registered sex offenders. Among these is Jessica's Law, passed by California voters in 2006, which prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 2,000 feet of schools and parks. That same law also enabled local jurisdictions to enact further residential restrictions on sex offenders by local ordinance, in a manner more restrictive than state law.

The Superior Court of California routinely releases criminal defendants, immediately following arraignment, directly from Court locations into the surrounding community. As a result, registered sex offenders are regularly released in close proximity to sensitive areas such as schools. While it remains the right of defendants to leave the Court freely in these situations, the City Council should examine the potential negative impacts of this practice on the neighborhoods of Los Angeles. The Council should consider restricting the release of previously registered sex offenders from Court facilities that are in close proximity to schools.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst report to the Public Safety Committee with legislative proposals to minimize any adverse public safety impacts of the post-arraignment release of criminal defendants by the Courts into particularly vulnerable or sensitive neighborhoods, including specific recommendations to prevent the release of registered sex offenders directly from courthouses into areas adjacent to schools.

PRESENTED BY:



Dennis P. Zine
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



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