

NEWS

From

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COUNCILMEMBER ALARCÓN CALLS FOR INCREASED OVERSIGHT OF TRACKING AND PLACEMENT OF SEX OFFENDERS

Los Angeles, CA – Today the results of an audit called for by Assemblymember Fiona Ma and Assemblymember Anthony Adams were released showing that more than 50,000 of the approximately 58,000 registered sex offenders in California have little supervision upon completion of parole. Even more shocking was the finding that at least 49 sex offenders' registered addresses matched the addresses of 46 licensed child care facilities across the state.

Based on this audit, the state took emergency action and suspended the licenses for nine of the homes, one of which is in Pacoima. The owners of the Pacoima facility say that it is their son who is registered as a sex offender and he has not lived in the location for over seven years. If this is the case, then the registered offender has been registered at the incorrect address for over seven years, calling into question the reliability of the current tracking system.

“The fact that a child care facility can operate when there is a registered sex offender at the location is unacceptable, whether or not the offender is actually living in the home,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “There is something horribly wrong with either the tracking system or the system that certifies child care facilities or both – but this is a dangerous breakdown no matter how you look at it. I applaud Assemblymembers Ma and Adams for calling for this audit and I have high hopes that the audit’s findings will result in positive steps forward to curb this ugly problem.”

Councilmember Alarcon has introduced multiple pieces of legislation to deal with the unequal distribution of sex offenders and to increase the information communities have on resources available such Megan’s List. Councilmember Alarcon introduced a motion to the City Council last year that would require landlords to check Megan’s List before renting an apartment to a tenant and requires the tenant to notify residents of the Megan’s List website. Additionally, in December of 2006, Councilmember Alarcon, then a State Assemblymember, introduced AB 148, which called on the Department of Corrections to evenly distribute sex offenders throughout the state. Currently communities such as Sylmar and Pacoima have ten to twenty times more registered sex offenders living in the community as compared to more affluent communities. This legislation was spurred on by an incident of multiple registered sex offenders being housed at a hotel in Sylmar and was championed by local community and Neighborhood Council members.

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