

Megan's Law Taskforce Housing Working Group

Approximately a year and a half ago Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez accompanied the San Jose Police Department's 290 team on two occasions during "ride-a-longs." Vice Mayor Chavez was able to obtain a better understanding of exactly how we go about tracking sex offenders and how we enforce the law when a sex offender violates their registering requirements. Out of those interactions Vice Mayor Chavez was receptive to understand that while the City of San Jose was fortunate to have a team allocated solely for 290 P.C. enforcement and tracking there was still an opportunity for improvement. One area for improvement that is critical is the communication between all of the stakeholders that in some way shape or form have contact with registered sex offenders. We are pleased that Vice Mayor Chavez was proactive establishing this Task Force so that we may improve communication and thereby improve the way we inform and protect the citizens of San Jose.

While the majority of the interactions that the San Jose Police Department's 290 team has with other agencies and businesses are positive and beneficial there are some particular areas that should be addressed.

➤ **Julian Street Inn / Innvision/ Horizon South**

There are a number of registered sex offenders whom reside in facilities such as Julian Street Inn and Horizon South. On several occasions when Detectives of the 290 unit have inquired to a residents residential status, representatives for the facilities have refused to provide the basic information if the sex offender lived there or not. The representatives are not informed why they can't provide us with the information, only that they have been told not to. The refusal of these agencies to not provide the sex offenders residential status inhibits investigations, and more importantly endangers the community due to the fact that we are unable to verify the location of such offenders.

➤ **The City Attorney's office and County mental health will have to work together to analyze the legal aspects concerning the confidentiality rights that the sex offenders living in these facilities have.**

➤ **Placement of 290 parolees within the City of San Jose**

There are statutes that govern where a 290 parolee can live, based of his / her conviction of specific crimes. Along with those laws there should also be an evaluation on the impact of the placement of a 290 parolee. Facilities such as Boy's and Girl's clubs, and other similar places should also be taken into consideration.

➤ **To deal with this issue the City of San Jose has communicated that they are working on a mapping project that will have the locations of all the day-care type facilities in the city. This program can be utilized by Parole in the course of their evaluations on the placement of parolees.**

- Leslye Krutko, Director of Housing for the City of San Jose, graciously volunteered to have her staff conduct research into what other legislatures are doing with regard to the placement and housing of sex offenders.

- The city is also developing a placement program to address the living situation of those people who are released from jail, hospitals, and other facilities. Hopefully through this potential program some sex offenders who are released back into the public can be placed in an equitable manner, and not concentrated in specific areas.

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