

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Supervisor Jim Venable

SUBMITTAL DATE: March 1, 2004


SUBJECT: Resolution 2004-116 in support of "Sexual Predator Punishment and Megan's Law Expansion Act," a November 4th ballot initiative that will expand Megan's Law and increase punishment for sexual predators.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board join me in adopting Resolution No. 2004-116 in support of "Sexual Predator Punishment and Megan's Law Expansion Act," a November 4th ballot initiative that will expand Megan's Law and increase punishment for sexual predators. I would also like to recommend that we explore immediately initiating our own "Riverside County Megan's Law Internet Listing."

BACKGROUND: State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth has authored the "Sexual Predator and Megan's Law Expansion Act," a new voter initiative proposed for the November 2004 ballot. This initiative is designed to strengthen Megan's Law and increase the punishment for child sex offenders. The initiative would also increase the scope of information disclosed about registered sex offenders under Megan's Law. It will require disclosures not currently available to the public, including registrants' addresses, license plate numbers, and whether the victim was a child, and make all such information available on the Internet.

Currently, Megan's Law, named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka of New Jersey who was savagely raped and killed by a neighbor who had a history of previous sexual offenses, allows for the community and law enforcement to track sexual offenders. The community has access to the Megan's Law database, but the information is displayed only by zip code, despite the numerous individuals who may live within a given zip code. 39 other states currently place information about sex offenders on the Internet. California is one of the last remaining states to fail to place such critical information about sex offenders on the Internet. I urge my colleagues on this Board to adopt the Resolution 2004 - 116 and by so doing, show our complete support for this measure and the safety of our children.

In addition, at the urging of Senator Jim Battin, I am asking our Executive Office to work with our District Attorney and Sheriff to research the feasibility of creating our own "Riverside County Megan's Law Internet Listing" and making it available right away. Senator Battin, citing the actions taken by the Cities of San Jose and San Mateo, wants Riverside County to follow suit, and help our residents have the right to access the identities of "high-risk" and "serious" sex offenders who live in our County via the Internet – this year.


Jim Venable, Supervisor

JV:msm

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CLERK OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

2 RESOLUTION 2004 – 116

3 Resolution in support of
4 "Sexual Predator Punishment and Megan's Law Expansion Act"

5 WHEREAS, State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth has authored the "Sexual
6 Predator Punishment and Megan's Law Expansion Act," a new voter initiative
7 proposed for the November 2004 ballot, and;

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9 WHEREAS, this initiative is designed to strengthen Megan's Law and increase
10 the punishment of child sex offenders, and;

11 WHEREAS, the initiative would also increase the scope of information
12 disclosed about registered sex offenders under Megan's Law, and;

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14 WHEREAS, the initiative will require disclosures not currently available to the
15 public, including registrants' addresses, license plate numbers, and whether the victim
16 was a child, and make all such information available on the Internet, and;

17 WHEREAS, the Sexual Predator Punishment and Megan's Law Expansion Act
18 is presently in circulation and requires about 374,000 valid signatures to be submitted
19 by April 16th in order to place the measure on the November 2004 ballot, and;

20 WHEREAS, Riverside County should take the lead to support the fact that the
21 state's child predator laws need to be updated and expanded to ensure the continued
22 safety of children in our County;

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24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Riverside County Board of
25 Supervisors on the 9th day of March does support the Sexual Predator Punishment
26 and Megan's Law Expansion Act and urges voters to support it at the ballot in
27 November 2004.
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