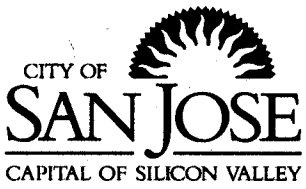
RULES COMMITTEE: 9-14-05
ITEM: G(4)



Memorandum

TO: Rules Committee

FROM: Vice-Mayor Cindy Chavez

SUBJECT: Megan's Law Taskforce

DATE: September 13, 2005

APPROVE Cindy Chavez **DATE:** 9/13/05

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Office perform a workload assessment of creating a Megan's Law Taskforce to provide support for the Police Department's 290 registrant's team.

BACKGROUND

Megan's law is vital in offering community members a deeper awareness of their neighborhoods and the tools to make informed decisions to keep their children safe. Megan's law, however, is not perfect. The nation has witnessed periodic breakdowns in the law's effectiveness and new legislation has been needed to keep the law effective and nimble. By strengthening partnerships between agencies and organizations, we can create a more effective strategy to confront sexual predators in our community.

I recommend the creation of a Megan's Law Taskforce. The goal of this taskforce will be to improve the ability to monitor sex offenders by strengthening communication between agencies such as California State Parole, local homeless shelters, neighborhood leaders, and leaders in the housing industry (i.e., the Tri-County Apartment Association).

I recommend that the following individuals be a part of the Taskforce to ensure its success:

- Vice-Mayor Cindy Chavez, City of San Jose
- Chief Robert Davis, San Jose Police Department
- Senator Elaine Alquist, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety
- Sheriff Laurie Smith, Santa Clare County Sheriff
- SAFE program representative
- 7 Neighborhood representatives
- State Parole representative
- Major Doug Tollerud, Salvation Army
- Christine Burroughs, Executive Direction, InnVision of Santa Clara Valley
- Eric Wiegers, California Apartment Association, Tri-County

San Jose hosts 61% (2,400) of Santa Clara County's sex offender population (3,929). The significant number of sex offenders centered in San Jose and possible changes in California's Megan's law makes the timing for this Taskforce incredibly important.