

PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT

SEXUAL PREDATORS AND OFFENDERS: PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

POLICY AND PROCEDURE 4.3.10.1

Effective Date : 06/18/09	Accreditation Standards: CALEA CFA 28.05M, 28.06M	Review Date: 05/01/2012
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PURPOSE: To ensure that the public is notified of the presence of sexual predators and offenders in the community pursuant to Florida State Statutes 775.21 and 944.606.

SCOPE: This policy and procedure applies to all members.

REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY: Detective Sergeant and Public Information Officer

POLICY: Pursuant to Florida State Statutes 775.21 and 944.606, this agency will adopt the following procedures to inform the public of the presence of sexual predators and sexual offenders within the city.

PROCEDURE:

1. Upon receiving information from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) or the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) that a person designated as a "sexual predator" or "sexual offender" has moved into the City of Palm Beach Gardens, the Detective Sergeant or assigned detective will contact the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and verify the person's status as a "sexual predator" or "sexual offender."
 - a. A copy of the verification along with the predator's photograph and current address can be obtained through the Internet at www.fdle.state.fl.us, by telephone at 888-357-7332, or from the monthly FDLE Predator List.
 - b. An officer will visit the subject's listed residence and verify the accuracy of their name and other information contained in the FDLE notice.
 - c. The Detective Sergeant or assigned detective will then contact the Public Information Officer and appropriate supervisors to initiate distribution of the information pursuant to Florida Law.
 - d. If the information cannot be verified, the information will not be disseminated to the public until it can be verified.
2. Public notification will be done after the information has been verified and without delay.
 - a. The Detective Sergeant or assigned detective will coordinate the notifications with the Public Information Officer and appropriate supervisors.
 - b. A flyer will be prepared using the FDLE Internet sheet. In addition to the predator or offender's information, the flyer will contain this agency's contact person, the contact person's telephone number, and the date the flyer was posted for public display. In accordance to Florida statutes, only public record information will be released by this agency.
 - c. Copies of the flyer shall be distributed in the predator or offender's neighborhood. This area, at a minimum, shall include the entire block of the predator or offender's residence and the entire block facing the residence. This distribution may be accomplished by beat officers, detectives, volunteers, or some combination thereof. The distribution of the flyers shall be documented by the assigned Detective.
 - d. Copies of the flyer shall be distributed to all schools and day care centers within one mile of the residence and may be distributed to additional schools and day care centers. In the case of a "sexual predator," such distribution to schools and day care centers must occur within 48 hours of the agency being notified of the

- presence of the predator. The distribution to schools and day care centers will also be documented by the assigned Detective.
- e. Copies of the flyers will be forwarded to the city's Parks and Recreation Department for posting on public bulletin boards located in city parks and buildings.
 - f. A copy of the flyer will be provided to the city's public information office for inclusion in the City of Palm Beach Gardens' newsletter mailed to all city residents.
 - g. The department's Internet web site will include the names and addresses of predators and offenders living within the city and links to the FDLE information on those persons.
 - h. If there is an organized neighborhood group, homeowners' association, or similar organization in the predator or offender's neighborhood, the departments will, upon request or on its own initiative, facilitate a community meeting to explain the sexual predator and offender notification process, to answer questions, and to address community concerns. The original flyer will be placed in a three-ring binder in alphabetical order and stored in the Records Unit. This binder shall be available for public review during regular business hours.
 - i. A copy of the flyer will be placed in a three-ring binder in alphabetical order and placed in the lineup room so that department personnel may access this information after regular business hours.
 - j. Any questions from the public requesting more information about a specific predator or offender or any other information about sexual predator or sexual offender laws will be directed to the Detective Sergeant.
3. If a sexual predator or sexual offender wants to register with this agency to announce that they now reside within our jurisdiction, they will be referred to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.
- a. The predator or offender's name, date of birth, address; and telephone number will be recorded and forwarded to the Detective Sergeant.
 - b. The Detective Sergeant or assigned detective will contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and confirm that the predator or offender has registered as required and that the information provided to PBSO is the same as that received by this department.
 - c. The Detective Sergeant or assigned detective will then follow the notification procedures outlined in Sections 1 and 2.

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APPROVED:

Stephen J. Stepp
Chief of Police

06/18/09
Date