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Date: March 7, 2003
To: Mayor Beverly O'Neill and Councilmembers
From: Dennis Carroll, 4th District Councilmember *DC*
Subject: **AGENDA ITEM for March 18th**
Megan's Law: California Sexual Offender Reporting System
Protecting the Children of Long Beach

I request the City Manager / Chief of Police to report on the current state of California reporting requirements for sexual offenders and the availability of this information to L.B. citizens. The report could also include current data on sexual assault and attempted kidnapping for the City of Long Beach.

After this presentation, I request the item be referred to the Public Safety Committee for preparation of a report to the City Council regarding possible changes to public access to sex offender information, including access by internet.

Background Information:

The United States Supreme Court recently affirmed two cases which have a major impact upon the safety of Long Beach citizens:

1. California's Three Strikes Law was upheld. The law was passed in 1993, after the kidnap and murder of 12-year old Polly Klaas by a paroled inmate. He had been released after serving only one-half of his 16-year sentence.
2. The court also upheld state laws of Alaska and Connecticut, permitting internet access to certain convicted sex offenders' information. The court concluded that the notice and registration requirements of these states were civil in nature and were lawful protections for the public.

In California, registered sex offender information is available at local police stations and by a 900-telephone number. There is no requirement that neighbors be notified when paroled sex offenders move into a community, nor are photos or residence addresses of offenders currently available to the public.

California citizens should be able to avail themselves of all protections determined to be lawful by the U.S. Supreme Court. Parents must be able to protect their children from convicted sex offenders and current technology should be reasonably available to them for that purpose.

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The Public Safety Committee will take testimony from concerned citizens and law enforcement officials regarding their recommendations concerning the type of sexual offender information which should be disclosed and the means of access which should be available to the public.

* I am advised by the City Manager that March 18th may be a heavy agenda – I request that this item be agendized for March 18th with the understanding that it may be continued to the following week at the discretion of the Mayor.