



Agenda Date: 4/19/2005
Agenda Placement: 9A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Helene Franchi, Management Analyst III, 253-4820
SUBJECT: Megan's Law Discussion

RECOMMENDATION

Discussion and possible direction regarding enforcement efforts of Megan's Law. (Supervisor Moskowitz)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Supervisor Moskowitz has asked for a discussion and possible direction to staff regarding enforcement of Megan's Law. Megan's Law was passed in 1996 and provides law enforcement with the legal ability to notify certain residents of the existence of serious and high risk sexual offenders in their community.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

California enacted Megan's Law in 1996 in response to the murder of a 7 year-old by a convicted sexual offender living in her neighborhood. The Sheriff is responsible for enforcement of Megan's Law in the unincorporated areas of the County, as well as the City of American Canyon and the Town of Yountville. Police Departments in the City of

Napa, City of St. Helena and City of Calistoga are responsible for enforcement in those jurisdictions. The law provides the ability for law enforcement to notify neighborhoods and residents of the existence of serious and high risk offenders, and further provides three distinct means for the public to become informed of the identity of registered sexual offenders:

1. Community Notification - under certain circumstances determined by the Sheriff's Department or relevant police department, public or neighborhood notifications may be made about the existence of registered sex offenders living in the neighborhood;
2. Sex Offender Identification Line - a fee for service provided by the Department of Justice for individuals over 18 years of age provides the ability to check up to 2 individuals per call. Each call is \$10; and
3. Megan's Law Database - a service provided by the Sheriff's Department or relevant police department allows the ability to view Megan's Law database which includes offender names, aliases, photographs, scars, marks, tattoos, and county of residence. The database does not include addresses of the offender and can only be viewed by individuals: 1) 18 years or older (a minor must be accompanied by an adult), 2) provide a valid California Driver's license or ID card, and 3) sign a statement that you are not a Registered Sex Offender and that your interest is for public protection not to harass, intimidate, or commit any crimes against any registrants.

Supervisor Moskowitz has asked to have a discussion regarding this law.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Britt Ferguson