



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Civil Rights

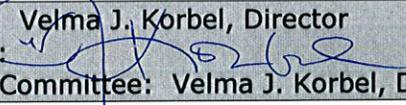
Date: March 20, 2013

To: Council Member Don Samuels, Chair – Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee

Subject: Resolution Re: Sex Offender Concentration in Minneapolis

Recommendation: The Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights respectfully requests that the City Council approve the resolution *Supporting Actions to Prevent Concentration of Sex Offenders in Minneapolis*.

Department Information

Prepared by: Velma J. Korb, Director
Approved by: 
Presenter in Committee: Velma J. Korb, Director

Financial Impact

- None

Supporting Information

Sex offender registration statistics show that over half of sex offenders registered in Minnesota live in Hennepin County with the majority concentrated in the neighborhoods of Jordan and Phillips. The concentration of sex offenders presents significant livability issues for communities already dealing with multiple layers of socio-economic issues including concentrated poverty, foreclosed properties, property crimes, and other forms of violence.

Additionally, the financial burden that Hennepin County (which includes Minneapolis) taxpayers are asked to bear by the state is a disproportionate compared to where sex offenders committed their original crime. Many of these offenders committed their sex offense in a state other than Minnesota; many have relocated to Hennepin County and Minneapolis from Illinois and Wisconsin.

In its 2007 report *Residential Proximity & Sex Offender Recidivism in Minnesota*, the Minnesota Department of Corrections offered that in states where residency restrictions are in place for sex offenders, these restrictions are in place to lessen access of sex offenders to their victims and potential victims. As its title would indicate the main purpose of the report was in collecting data on recidivism based on concerns from the public on the "if" "where" and "how" released sex offenders would re-offend. The report did show, however, that sex offenders looked for their victim(s) within 10 miles of where they live.

The resolution that is the subject of this present request is to underscore the City of Minneapolis' support for going beyond the conversation regarding housing restrictions for sex offenders and to supporting provisions that would require the State of Minnesota to take action to discontinue shifting the financial and social burden for supporting the State's sex offenders to Minneapolis and to adopt the Hennepin County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee's recommendations (CJCC), as well as the recommendations of the City of Minneapolis shown below:

- 1) Oppose cost shifting to local units of government of the sex offenders being released from MSOP. In addition, address the problem of the concentration of sex offenders in certain neighborhoods by providing incentives for sentencing counties to provide services within their county lines. Provide disincentive if they do not provide those services. For example, a receiving county could charge a sentencing county for services. (CJCC)
- 2) Support legislation and funding for offenders reentry, including transitional housing, job training, work opportunities, and community-based treatment. (CJCC)
- 3) The city of Minneapolis: creating a statewide coordinated plan for dealing with the released sex offenders that addresses the overall concentration of sex offenders located within the city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County and especially mitigates the concentration of sex offenders within vulnerable neighborhoods. To ensure this equitable distribution of sex offenders, the State must fund additional housing options and placement of halfway houses throughout the metropolitan region and state should require the county of commitment to bear financial responsibilities for the released offenders. (City of Minneapolis)

RESOLUTION 2013- _____

By **Samuels**

Supporting Actions to Prevent Concentration of Sex Offenders in Minneapolis

Whereas, when a sex offender is released from confinement, or a residential facility, s/he may reside in the community pursuant to certain release conditions and proximity of the residence to other predatory offenders and schools; and

Whereas, on January 1, 2013, there were 2,522 registered sex offenders that live, work, or go to school in Minneapolis; and

Whereas, the concentration of registered sex offenders occurs in areas of the city populated mainly by non-majority peoples or areas in which many of the residents live at or below the poverty line; and,

Whereas, registered sex offenders are concentrated in the Minneapolis neighborhoods of Camden, Near North, North Loop, Phillips and Powderhorn; and,

Whereas, in the areas where sex offenders are concentrated there exists other complex social and economic pressures which tend to further isolate these vulnerable communities from more affluent areas of the city and the resources contained therein; and,

Whereas, the *Results Minneapolis: State of Youth* progress report states that more than one hundred thirty-five thousand youth under the age of twenty-four reside in Minneapolis; and,

Whereas, in 2012, of approximately six-hundred persons suspected or arrested for Criminal-Sexual-Conduct-Rape (CSCR), or crimes related to a CSCR, thirty-three percent were unknown to the victim and five percent were known by a partial name only; and,

Whereas, defining concentration as the number of sex offenders relative to the population of the vulnerable community is meant to control the density of sex offenders, and the exposure of the community to these potentially problematic populations; and

Whereas, fifteen percent of the Minnesota population resides in Hennepin County which includes the city of Minneapolis, yet 50% of the State's sex offenders are concentrated in Hennepin county; and,

Whereas, forty percent of sex offenders concentrated in Hennepin County which includes Minneapolis, committed their offense in a state other than Minnesota; and,

Whereas, equity regarding the issue of the concentration of sex offenders in vulnerable Minneapolis neighborhoods demands an even-handing dealing in every circumstance in which a corrections institution or a residential facility contemplates the release of such an offender.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis:

That the concentration of sex offenders in distressed areas of the city contributes to the degradation of the community, increases risk of violence towards youth and other vulnerable persons, and injures the welfare of the community.

Be it further resolved that the City of Minneapolis supports the creation of a statewide coordinated plan for dealing with sex offenders released from prison that addresses the overall concentration of offenders located within the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County and especially mitigates the concentration of sex offenders within vulnerable neighborhoods.

Be it Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis will work with its partners in the County, State and Federal governments to ensure equitable distribution of sex offenders, by supporting the need to fund additional housing options and placement of half-way houses throughout the metropolitan region and state and by supporting the requirement that the county of commitment must bear financial responsibility for released offenders.

Be it Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis supports legislation and programs to address the problem of concentration of sex offenders in vulnerable neighborhoods where such legislation will provide incentives for sentencing counties to provide services within their county lines.

Be it Further Resolved that the City Council directs staff in the Office of the City Attorney, the Regulatory Services Department, the Community Planning and Economic Development Department, the Inter-Governmental Relations Office, the Health and Family Support Department, the Minneapolis Police Department, and any others to work together and with their partners in the County, State and Federal governments to address the problem of concentration of predatory offenders in Minneapolis.