



STATE OF WASHINGTON

Sex Offender Policy Board

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**Minutes
Sex Offender Policy Board
Sex Offender in the Community Committee
Teleconference
February 3, 2009**

Members Present:

Anmarie Aylward
Brooke Burbank
Judge Dean Lum
Andrew Neiditz
Dr. Henry Richards
Mary Ellen Stone

Staff Present:

Shoshana Kehoe
Andi May

Others Present:

Amy Pearson, Office of Crime Victims Advocacy; Doug Levy, City of Everett Local Sex Offender Policy Task Force Member; Pat McClane, City of Everett Local Sex Offender Policy Task Force Member

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mary Ellen Stone, at 3:05pm

II. INTRODUCTIONS

The committee members, staff and other interested parties introduced themselves. The committee affirmed Mary Ellen Stone as the Chair of this committee.

III. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee needs to address what this committee will cover in the future and how to go about it. It was suggested that the Committee refer to the December 2008 Sex Offender Policy Board Legislative Report for a description of this Committee's purpose. (pg. 14)

The Committee would like to create a work plan and assign task and possible research projects to committee members. Shoshana will assist in accomplishing this.

At the next SOPB meeting on February 19th, the Board will identify a protocol for committees to use when outside individuals or entities ask a committee to weigh in on or endorse policy decisions.

IV. AREAS OF FOCUS BY COMMITTEE

The committee discussed areas where it should focus its work. Some of those included:

- There is concern that the response to sex offender housing is neither consistent nor well vetted.
- We need to develop criteria to respond to questions or inquiries regarding housing for sex offenders.
- We also need to develop a process for cities/communities to respond to sex offender concerns.
- Need to discuss what type of research to rely on?

V. PRESENTATION BY DOUG LEVY AND PAT MCCLANE FROM THE CITY OF EVERETT LOCAL SEX OFFENDER POLICY TASK FORCE

City of Everett Local Sex Offender Policy Task Force members Doug Levy and Pat McClane presented the task force's final report and recommendations regarding the placement and management of sex offenders in Everett. (See Everett Task Force Final Report.)

A. Development and Purpose of Task Force

After a landlord purchased housing in Everett (the McMannis Mansion) to develop for registered sex offenders (RSO), there was a growing concern by the local community, that there would be a concentrated number of RSOs residing in the neighborhoods. The Mayor approved the development of a task force to address the above concern. The Mayor also wanted to start these community meetings to assist in developing a response system to use when RSOs were not in compliance. The task force met for six weeks.

B. Accomplishments/Gains by Task Force

- The task force found that the process educated the task force members and the community about misperceptions of RSOs and the rationale behind the notification process. The neighborhoods also found the presentation of information regarding the location of RSOs in the community helpful.
- The task force felt they successfully attracted a broad cross-section of community members.
- The task force discovered that landlords in the community are buying up properties with an eye to towards developing them for RSO.
- They believed the process was a positive first step in response to community concerns about RSOs in the neighborhood.

C. Response System by Task Force - “Best Practice”

The Everett Task Force Report raised important issues about what kind of evidence/data cities should consider when discussing SO issues and developing recommendations.

Doug and Pat agreed that there is a need for both a city government response system and a community/neighborhood response system. Doug thought it would be helpful to have a current user-friendly data system on sex offenders, such as a webpage.

The Committee would like to maintain a continuing dialogue with Everett as well as hear from them about how successful they have been in accomplishing their goals. This will help the committee determine how and where to fit Everett into its work plan.

D. Committee’s Discussion of Everett Task Force Report

This Task Force presentation spurred discussion about what resources are available to local communities and governments, as well as what state legislation will play a role in local policymaking.

There was expressed concern that communities do not have the same access to information as each other; work needs to be done to resolve this problem. Also, Community response systems need to be much deeper.

Legislation that may affect communities with respect to RSO is HB 1768 – Restrictions in locating/placing sex offenders within 50 miles of the victim and HB 1430

- The permissible density of sex offenders in an area. The committee believes they may be asked to take a position on the Density bill.

There was some thought that down the road it may be helpful for the SOPB to act as a liaison or vehicle in providing assistance to local communities in their quest to develop a response system to RSO housing issues.

E. Committee’s Position on Both the Task Force’s Recommendations and Request by the Task Force

Mary Ellen informed Pat and Doug that the committee is not in a position at this time to weigh in on/endorse their proposal as a recommendation for a particular piece of legislation. The Committee will inform the Full Board of this decision.

VI. ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Mary Ellen Stone at 3:55 pm.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SEX OFFENDER IN THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE.

Mary Ellen Stone, Chair

Date

Shoshana K. Kehoe

Date