

City of Alhambra

April 18, 2008



*Gateway
to the
San Gabriel Valley*

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Dear Alhambra Resident:

Recently, the City Council, in cooperation with residents and city staff, successfully closed a home for sex offenders established by the State Department of Corrections. Under current state law, often referred to as Jessica's Law, registered sex offenders are prohibited from living within 2,000 feet of a school or park where children gather. Since the law also allows cities to adopt more restrictive residency requirements to further protect children, the City of Alhambra immediately took aggressive measures to restrict the areas where convicted sex offenders can live in our community.

The City Council adopted a new ordinance that:

- **Prohibits two or more sex offenders from moving into the same house, duplex, apartment, motel, or inn**, unless those persons are legally related by blood, marriage or adoption.
- **Increases the number of designated parks in order to broaden the 'No Sex Offender Zone,' also known as the Residential Exclusion Zone.** Two public parks were identified: Lindaraxa Park and the Gateway Plaza Park at the corner of Valley Boulevard and Fremont Avenue. These two new areas, in addition to Alhambra's six existing parks, greatly expand the total Residential Exclusion Zone.
- **Adds State Licensed Child Care Centers to the list of restricted areas in addition to parks and schools.** Sex offenders are prohibited from moving into a Residential Exclusion Zone located within 2,000-feet of a child-care center, a public or private school (grades K-12), or a park.

The City Council immediately recognized that this was an extremely serious issue that had to be resolved quickly to protect children and families, and to ensure public safety and the integrity of our neighborhoods. Residents are advised to contact the Alhambra Police Department, a member of the City Council or the City Manager's Office immediately if they believe the ordinance is being violated. By the same token, landlords are urged to contact the Alhambra Police Department at (626) 570-5177 for tips on screening tenants especially with respect to this issue. A copy of the ordinance can be found at City Hall or on the City's website (www.cityofalhambra.org). Information about where sex offenders live and other information about the registrant can be found at www.meganslaw.ca.gov.

We are especially grateful to all those who worked with us to achieve a positive result. We value your input and share your pride in preserving Alhambra's quality of life.

Very Sincerely,

Luis Ayala, Mayor
Barbara Messina, Vice Mayor

Stephen Sham, Councilperson-1st District
Gary Yamauchi, Councilperson-3rd District
Steven Placido, Councilperson-4th District