

**The Bill Blackwood
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Sex Offender Community Notification

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ABSTRACT

Community notification of sex offenders is relevant to contemporary law enforcement because it is all officers' obligation to provide correct information on each convicted offender. Persons convicted of sexual offenses have been required to register with the state of Texas since 1991. The registration process was developed and is monitored by the Texas Department of Public Safety. This information is available for the public to view on the state's sex offender website and at the local law enforcement agencies. Community notification meetings may be held by law enforcement agencies to identify offenders living in certain geographical areas. The purpose of this research is to determine if the public understands the sex offender registration laws, if they know how to access this information, and how many law enforcement agencies in the state participate in community notifications.

Research of the community notification process was conducted through surveys taken by law enforcement officials and citizens of Lake Worth. The survey findings showed the majority of the Lake Worth citizens did not know how to access the sex offender database and were uneducated about sex offender laws. The surveys further showed that only six of the surveyed law enforcement agencies in the state were actively participating in formal community notification meetings. The public must be educated in sex offender laws, access to the offender information, and offender identification in order to provide a safer community. City and county government must budget funds allowing this type of education for their residence.

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INTRODUCTION

The issue to be examined considers whether or not the community notification of convicted, registered sex offenders is a benefit to the community. The release of this information was designed to have a positive effect on the safety of the citizens. This information is available to all citizens and was intended to create a safer environment for the citizens by identifying all convicted sex offenders and their home addresses.

The Texas Sex Offender Registration Law was passed in September 1991. This law requires persons convicted of certain sexual based offenses to register with their local law enforcement agency. This registration includes the offender's home address, business address, and personal information. All offenders required to register under this law must verify and update their information each year. This information is available to the public through the Department of Public Safety's website and may be requested from local law enforcement agencies. The researcher's intent is to determine to what extent the public uses this information and if the law creates a safer environment for the public. It appears that the public has not been educated about the registration laws and the benefits therein.

The research question to be examined focuses on whether or not the community notification system actually works. Officers assigned to the Sex Offender Registration Unit (SOR Unit) must maintain complete files on each offender in their area and conduct in-home checks to verify this information. The actual community notification is completed by the local agency through mailings, community meetings, and school notifications. At this time, very few agencies in Texas conduct community meetings to discuss the registered offenders living in the city limits. The local school district is

notified each time an offender moves into the area but only if the victim was a school aged child. This information is usually not released any further than the school administration offices.

Community meetings are a good media to get information to the citizens. These meetings identify the offender by name, photo, life restrictions, and certain personal information. The public will know who the offender is and where he/she lives at the conclusion of the meeting. Personal safety, child safety, and internet safety are also discussed during these meetings. All attendees leave the meeting with a greater knowledge of the law that can be passed to their friends and family members.

This researcher will use one survey submitted to the citizens of Lake Worth and one survey submitted to member cities of the Texas Municipal League and Sheriff's Offices throughout the state. This researcher will also use information obtained from professional journals, internet sites, books, and personal interviews. The intended outcome of the research will show that community notification of registered sex offenders and their personal information does create a safer environment for the public. Further, this will increase the public knowledge of personal safety and their child's safety.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In 1991, the state of Texas implemented a Sex Offender Registration Law. The information gathered during this registration process was not available to the local law enforcement agencies or the public. In 1995, the offender information was made available to law enforcement and the public.

All persons convicted of sexual based offenses are required to register with their local law enforcement agency. The offender must register seven days after being placed on community supervision or seven days after release from confinement. The offender must supply their name, date of birth, race, sex, height, weight, and eye and hair color. They must also supply their driver's license number, social security number, home and business address, recent photograph and fingerprint, date of conviction, age of victim, sex of victim, and punishment. This information is usually gathered by prison officials at the time of the offender's release from custody or by their probation officer upon their reporting to the probation office. The information is then forwarded to the state and the law enforcement agency at the offender's residence. The offender is required to verify this information once a year for single convictions, every 90 days for multiple convictions, or every 30 days on civil comments cases. Any changes in the above information must be disclosed, and the changes must be made in the local and state files. The offender must contact his home agency seven days prior to making any address changes. He must then contact the local law enforcement agency of his new residence no later than seven days after moving into the new residence. These changes must be reported to the state by the registering agency (Sex Offender Registration Manual, 2004).

The state sends sex offender post card notices, through the U.S. Postal Service, to neighbors of "high risk" sex offenders after the initial registration. This is the only community notification preformed by the state. Any further community notification must be completed by the county or local agencies. While under community supervision, the offender is monitored by the probation officer and is governed by strict rules and

regulations. If a sex offender has served his time in prison and is no longer under supervision, there is no authority to monitor his behavior or actions. (Sex Offender Registration Manual, 2004).

Lieb (1996) stated, "In 1990, Washington State enacted "sweeping changes in penalties for sex offenses, including civil commitment, registration, and community notification" (as cited in Matson, 2001, p. 2). This was the first formal community notification program in the United States. In 1994, Congress enacted the Jacob Wetterling Act, which authorized each state to create a sex offender registration program and allowed discretionary community notification. In 1999, the National Sex Offender Registration registry was formed as part of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). This data base allowed law enforcement to check the registry status of offenders in all states. The remaining states did not follow Washington in creating their own sex offender registry until 1999.

There are three commonly used types of community notification: broad community notification, notification of those at risk, and passive notification. The purpose of these laws is to notify the public that a convicted sex offender lives nearby (Pogrebin, 2004). The responsibility for maintaining the sex offender database and initial registration of offenders falls to the court, probation and parole divisions, and prisons. The state sends notices through the mail to the neighbors of some offenders. The remaining notification falls to the local city and county officials. This notification, if done correctly, can supply the community with knowledge to protect themselves and families against sexual predators.

The Seattle Police Department was one of the first cities to alert their citizens of a sex offender coming to the community. Unfortunately, the citizens used the information to find the offender and destroy his house. Seattle Police Department reviewed their notification policy and formed a task force to study the problem. Washington State legislature later passed the Community Protection Act of 1990. This Act enhanced penalties for sex crimes, created a sex offender registration system, and established programs to assist victims of sex offenses. It further authorized law enforcement officials to notify the community when a sex offender is released from the custody of the State (National Criminal Justice Association, 1997).

Louisiana established registration and notification statutes in 1992. Louisiana requires offenders to conduct community notification themselves. Offenders must notify “at least one person in every residence or business within a one-mile radius in a rural area and a three square block area in an urban area or suburban area of the address where he will reside” (NCJA, 1997 p. 25). The offender is also responsible for notifying the “superintendent of the school district where he will reside” (NCJA, 1997 p. 25). The superintendent is responsible for notifying the individual schools and supplying the offender’s name, address, and conviction information. The offender must notify all people living in the designated areas by mail or publish a notice in the local newspaper for 30 days (NCJA, 1997).

The Lake Worth Police Department began community notification meetings in 2002. A notice of the community meeting was posted throughout the city and sent home with all students in the Lake Worth Independent School District. The department has had three meetings with an attendance of approximately 100 people (2% of the

population). In each of the meetings, the public interest was high. The notification meeting was held at the Lake Worth High School. Each attendee was given a booklet during the meeting. The booklet contained each offender's information and photograph, a map of the city showing the offender's residence, and a brief description of the registration law. During the meeting, all registered offenders within the city limits of Lake Worth were identified by name, address, and color photo. The offender's color photograph is displayed on a large projection screen in the auditorium. The offender's conviction, punishment, probation details, and certain facts of the victim were discussed. The map of the city indicated the offender's home address in reference to the attendee's home and schools in the city. The meeting also covered topics of child safety, family safety, and internet safety for children and teens. Attendees of these meetings left with knowledge of the offenders and how to better protect their families. City officials attending the meeting stated that after the meeting, they observed several of the attendees driving through the city, locating each of the offender's residences.

Currently, there are 19 states, including Texas, that use the Broad Community Notification method to release sex offender information to the public. The offenders are assessed a risk level, and their information is then released to the public. Fourteen states use a more limited notification method, known as Notification to Those at Risk. The sex offender information is released to public and private schools, child care facilities, churches, and organizations that provide services to children. The final 17 states utilize Passive Notification, which requires citizens to submit a formal request for the information from law enforcement agencies (Matson, 2001).

Community notifications can have several different affects on the community. If Megan Kanka's parents had access to a sex offender registry database and had checked on their neighbor, they probably would not have allowed Megan to play across the street at an offender's home. Megan was later sexually assaulted and murdered by the convicted sex offender that lived across the street from her. Winick and LaFord (2003) stated, "providing parents with this information, therefore, predictably reduces their level of fear and anxiety and enhances their feeling of control over their environment" (p. 216). The information gained through the notification process can give families a sense of control over their environment. This also will have a positive effect on law enforcement. Registration and community notification laws give the police and prosecutor the opportunity to provide assistance to the community to prevent sexual offenses (Winick & LaFord, 2003). The police can supply information on an area's sex offenders to educate the community and create a safer city.

The community may suffer from fear and anxiety as a result of obtaining the name and address of convicted sex offenders living in their neighborhood. When a sex offender is identified, citizens may be afraid to come out of their homes when the offender is present. They may restrict the actions of their children when playing or cause the child to be escorted to and from school. Information gained from these laws, while designed to inform and educate, can cause paranoia and a sense of suspicion toward strangers. The notification laws are based on the belief that these offenses are committed by strangers. More than 75% of cases involving sexual assaults on children were committed by family members (Winick & LaFord, 2003). In dealing with offenders who target family members, identification and notification of their residence to the

community may not be necessary for the protection of the community. This would only increase the family's embarrassment in exposing the family's secret. This could actually cause the family to not report the offense, fearing what the neighbors may think and say.

The offender may also experience negative effects in relation to his rehabilitation due to the notification process. The individuals are labeled as a sex offender for either 10 years or life. This has a detrimental effect on the offender's employment as well as their social and educational opportunities. The offender will find starting a new life and meeting new friends difficult with the sex offender label. Studies of sex offenders have shown they struggle getting or keeping a job, have a hard time finding an acceptable place to live, receive threats, and are harassed. They are often humiliated in their daily lives and ostracized by neighbors and lifetime acquaintances (Zevitz & Farkas, 2000). The community notification creates a safer environment by allowing the citizens to protect themselves and their children. Unfortunately, most offenders see the law as an invasion of privacy. They have paid their debt to society but are still subject to restrictions and ridicule that have an adverse effect on their lives. Citizens have asked what happens to the offender list when an offender moves out of the city. The answer is that the offender remains on the list because they build relationships, have family in the area, or may simply return. By removing them from the offender list, the public may forget about the offender when there is a chance he will return. Community notification only identifies the offenders inside the city limits. Due to the population of most counties and cities, it is logistically difficult to include all offenders in a large geographic area.

During the community notification meetings at Lake Worth, the attendees were encouraged become educated but not interfere, harass, or confront the listed offenders. The attendees were informed as to the offenses and how to protect themselves and their children. They were “put on notice” that no form of harassment or vigilantism will be tolerated. The community must be encouraged to see that the offender is successful in his life. If the offender fails to succeed, he is more likely to re-offend. The primary goal of the Sex Offender Registration Law is to prevent the recidivism of the sex offender and encourage them to take responsibility for their actions (Winick & LaFord, 2003). Vigilantism or abuse of the information by law enforcement agencies could result in a class action law suit being filed and the law repealed. To this date, offenders have reported no incidents of harassment or abuse.

METHODOLOGY

The research question to be examined considers whether or not community notification is an effective tool to provide a safer environment for the public. The researcher hypothesizes that the general public understands the purpose of the Sex Offender Registration Law but is not educated in the proper way to access the information. The method of inquiry will include information gained through public surveys and law enforcement surveys and a review of articles, periodicals, and journals. Surveys will be sent to 350 law enforcement agencies that have membership in the Texas Municipal League. Of those surveys, 149 were completed and returned.

A survey of fifteen questions will be sent to the residence of Lake Worth through the water bill mailings. Surveys will be mailed out to 1,970 private residences and businesses. The survey was a one page, front and back form, with 15 questions and a

respondent information section. Of those 1,970 surveys, 517 were returned. Information from these surveys will be used to acquire a level of public knowledge of the sex offender laws and involvement in community notification meetings.

FINDINGS

Currently, eight law enforcement agencies, including the Lake Worth Police Department, conduct a community notification meeting. Dallas police, Lubbock police, Round Rock police, Marble Falls police, Wichita Falls police, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Wise County Sheriff's Office conduct formal community meetings to identify sex offenders in their jurisdictions. Information was gained from the returned surveys. Montgomery Sheriff's Office has quarterly community meetings and showed a great amount of public interest, though the citizens still do not feel safer with this knowledge. Wise County, Wichita Falls, and Marble Falls have yearly meetings with poor public interest. The remaining agencies stated they have had notification meetings in the past but have no record of public interest.

A survey was sent to the citizens of Lake Worth. These surveys had a return rate of 38%. The survey asked questions in reference to registration law and notification knowledge. The citizens were asked if they felt safer knowing where a sex offender lives and if they believed the law was an effective tool for public safety. Of surveys returned, 47% stated they knew about the community notification law, but only 2% had ever attended a formal meeting. When the citizens were asked if they were notified that an offender was moving into their neighborhood, 11% respondents stated they had received a notice. Only three respondents had attended a formal community meeting in reference to sex offenders and their addresses. Ninety percent stated they were

concerned and fearful about having a sex offender living in their neighborhood. Fifty percent of the completed surveys stated the participants felt safer knowing the offender's location.

When the participants were asked if they believe that community notification is an effective tool to educate citizens about safety, 86% of the respondents stated yes. Ninety-three percent of the respondents stated they believed they had the right to the offender's information. Participants were also asked if they believed that posting a sex offender's home address violates the offender's right to privacy. From the completed surveys, 77% of the persons surveyed stated the offender's rights were not being violated by this law.

The survey asked if the citizens would like to see all convicted felons be required to register in a database similar to the sex offenders. Sixty-nine percent of the respondents stated they would like to see all convicted felons listed on a similar type of database. Seventy percent of the respondents noted concern and fear of sex offenders living in their neighborhood. One question dealt with the respondent's opinion on the current sex offender registration laws. Out of the 517 returned surveys, 72% of the respondents answered this question. Fifty percent of the respondents believed the law is too lenient. The remainder believed that the law is adequate or too strict. The respondent gender information showed 30% were male, 70% were female. One hundred respondents failed to indicate their gender. The survey also asked the respondents to indicate an age group. Twenty-two percent of the respondents were in the 50 to 70 year old group.

A survey was also conducted at LEMIT Module I in College Station, Texas. The survey was the same one sent to state law enforcement agencies. Since none of the surveyed officers were directly involved with sex offenders or the registration process, their opinions were very important. The group included officers from various sized departments, parks and wildlife, school resource officers, and transit police. These questions dealt with types of community notification, monitoring the offenders, and opinions on the effectiveness of the offender registration law. From this survey, half of the agencies had participated in some type of community notification. Only one agency, Lubbock Police Department, held formal community meetings. The remainder relied on the public accessing the state or local websites. Ninety-five percent believed that the notification process was an effective tool for education, but the registration law should be stricter.

The researcher had the opportunity to speak with a registered sex offender about an upcoming community notification meeting. The offender stated he would speak to the audience about the life of a registered person and issues he had experienced in his life. He explained that obtaining a job and place to live was hard. Once a prospective employer or landlord discovered his criminal history, he was refused employment or asked to "live somewhere else." He stated that the community needs to know about people like him. He explained that his sexual desires were like anyone else's except that he is attracted to male children, not female adults. He asked, "What would you do if the state told you it is against the law for you to love your spouse and attached criminal penalties against you if you do." He demonstrated the classic trait of improper thinking associated with child molesters. He felt that the public needs to know about people like

him and protect their children. In his community of sorts, there are active offenders who seek out deprived, neglected, and “forgotten” children for sexual exploitation.

Unfortunately, the offender died in an automobile accident before he could discuss his life with citizens. This offender’s beliefs and traits of improper thinking should serve as a good example to the importance of community education and the need for public safety.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

The issue examined by the researcher considered whether or not community notification of sex offenders is effective. The community is safer with the enactment of this law. Citizens now have a method to learn the names of the registered offenders in their neighborhood via the internet and from information supplied by their local law enforcement. The purpose of this research was to gain the opinions of the public about their understanding of the law and if they know how to utilize the information gained from accessing the information base. The citizens surveyed do understand the law and the law’s purpose. Further, the research intended to discover the opinions of law enforcement officers assigned to sex offender units regarding the law’s effectiveness.

The sex offender laws were established in 1991. There have been various changes to the laws but no requirement for law enforcement agencies to conduct community notification meetings. Most of the changes in the law have been related to the registration process. The sex offender that was interviewed during this research discussed his feelings, potential dangers for children, and his lifestyle as a registered offender. The information gained from this offender showed the importance of the law and the need for statewide community notifications.

Understanding that large cities like Dallas or Houston may be unable to conduct a meeting of this size, this should not prevent district officers or officials from conducting notification meetings throughout the larger cities. Community education is paramount in preventing further victimization. Currently, most law enforcement agencies do not have any type of community notification; they rely on an internet search by the public. Many older citizens or lower income families do not have access to the computer internet system. The only other option is for local law enforcement to conduct meetings and educate the public. Meetings of this nature, held once a year, would greatly educate and protect the public while building greater trust between the city and the citizens.

Upon review of the aforementioned surveys, it appears that a large percentage of the public is not aware of or understands the sex offender law. Many citizens do not know how to access the information. While law enforcement agencies favor the registration law, most choose not to participate in any community notification. A limitation encountered during the citizen survey was that the researcher received a poor response from citizens aged 18 to 30. Only 6% of this age group participated in the survey. A better response was received from older citizens, aged 50 to 70 years old. Sixty-four percent of this age group responded to the survey. Further limitations were encountered due to a lack of response from very small law enforcement agencies.

It was hypothesized that community notification of registered sex offenders and their personal information creates a safer environment for the public. This is true since this information is supplied to the public. The identification of sex offenders does work to create a safer environment for the public by providing the public with who the offenders are and where they live. Training is needed across the state to educate law

enforcement officers as to the importance of community notification meetings. All law enforcement agencies should address the needs of their community and the importance of identifying registered sex offenders in their jurisdictions. All officers involved in community notification programs should encourage other law enforcement officers to conduct community meetings, and cities and counties should budget funds for these meetings. If this occurs and all cities participate in community notification meetings, the intent of the Sex Offender Registration Law will succeed and create a safer environment for the citizens.

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APPENDIX 1

Law Enforcement Agency Survey

1. Does your agency conduct any form of community notification of sex offenders and their address?

Yes _____ No _____

2. If you answered yes to question #1, how does your agency notify the public?

Newspaper _____ Mailing _____ Flyer _____ Web site _____

3. Does your agency participate in any formal community meetings to identify sex offenders within your city limits?

Yes _____ No _____

4. If you answered yes to question #3, what percentage of public interest was found at the meeting?

Less than 10% _____ 10% to 50% _____ 50% to 80% _____ Over 80% _____

5. Does your agency register sex offenders or is this handled by a County agency?

Registration by agency _____ Registration by County _____

6. Does your agency have a specialized unit that monitors sex offenders within your city limits?

Yes _____ No _____

7. In your opinion, do the citizens in your jurisdiction feel safer since the sex offender registration laws have been enacted?

Yes _____ No _____

8. In your opinion is community notification effective in your jurisdiction?

Yes _____ No _____

9. In your opinion, is community notification an effective tool for law enforcement to educate the public about child safety?

Yes _____ No _____

10. In your opinion, is community notification an effective tool for law enforcement to inform your citizens of an offender's location?

Yes _____ No _____

Respondent information

City population _____

Urban _____

Rural _____

Sex offenders currently registered _____

Frequency of formal community notification meetings _____

APPENDIX 2

Lake Worth Community Survey

1. Do you know what "sex offender community notification" is?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Have you attended any of the community notifications meetings identifying sex offenders living in Lake Worth?
Yes _____ No _____
3. If you answered yes to question #2, how did the city notify you of the community meeting?
Newspaper _____ Mailing _____ Flyer _____ Posted notice _____
4. Have you ever received a notice that a sex offender was moving to your neighborhood in the mail?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
5. Have you ever attended a formal community meeting in reference to sex offenders and their addresses?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
6. Does having a sex offender in your neighborhood concern you?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
7. Does having a sex offender in your neighborhood frighten you?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
8. If you knew where the sex offenders lived near you would you feel safer?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
9. If all sex offenders were identified would you feel safer?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
10. Do you believe that community notification is an effective tool to educate the citizens about safety?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
11. Do you believe that community notification is an effective tool to educate the citizens about the location of sex offenders?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
12. Do you feel citizens have the right to know where a sex offender lives?
Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____

13. Do you feel that posting of a sex offender's home address violates the offender's right to privacy?

Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____

14. I believe the current sex offender notification laws are:

Too strict _____ Adequate _____ Too lenient _____ No opinion _____

15. I would like to see all convicted felons be required to register in a data base similar to the sex offenders.

Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____

Respondent information:

Male _____ Female _____ Age _____

Lake Worth citizen: Yes _____ No _____

Years of residency _____

APPENDIX 3

Community Survey Results

The following is analysis of the returned surveys. The percentages listed are formulated from the actual number of answered questions on each topic.

Question 1. Do you know what “sex offender community notification” is?

Yes: 246 No: 271 Don’t know: 0

47% of the returned surveys know about the notification program.

Question 2. Have you attended any of the community notifications meetings identifying sex offenders living in Lake Worth?

Yes: 15 No: 502 Don’t know: 0

2% of the returned surveys have attended notification meeting in Lake Worth. . The Police Department has conducted three community notification programs over the past 6 years. At these meetings, we had a total of approximately 200 people attend.

Question 4. Have you ever received a notice that a sex offender was moving to your neighborhood in the mail?

Yes: 58 No: 447 Don’t know: 12

11% of the returned surveys have received some type of notification through the mail. Notices of this type are sent out by the State of Texas to the neighbors of high risk offenders.

Question 5. Have you ever attended a formal community meeting in reference to sex offenders and their addresses?

Yes: 12 No: 500 Don’t know: 5

2% of the returned surveys have attended some type of a notification meeting, either here or with a different city.

Question 6. Does having a sex offender in your neighborhood concern you?

Yes: 373 No: 15 Don’t know: 26

90% of the completed surveys are concerned about sex offenders in their neighborhood

Question 7. Does having a sex offender in your neighborhood frighten you?

Yes: 303 No: 104 Don’t know: 27

70% of the completed surveys feared the sex offenders in their neighborhood.

Question 8. If you knew where the sex offenders lived near you would you feel safer?

Yes: 213 No: 102 Don’t know: 56

57% of the completed surveys stated they felt safer knowing where the offenders live.

Question 9. If all sex offenders were identified would you feel safer?

Yes: 289 No: 48 Don’t know: 39

77% of the completed surveys stated they would feel safer if all sex offenders were identified.

Question 10. Do you believe that community notification is an effective tool to educate the citizens about safety?

Yes: 332 No: 19 Don't know: 34

86% of the completed surveys believed the notification program was an effective tool for public safety.

Question 11. Do you believe that community notification is an effective tool to educate the citizens about the location of sex offenders?

Yes: 319 No: 14 Don't know: 40

86% of the completed surveys believed the sex offender notification program was a good tool to alert the citizens as to the offender's home address.

Question 12. Do you feel citizens have the right to know where a sex offender lives?

Yes: 355 No: 8 Don't know: 18

93% of the completed surveys believed the public has the right to know where the offenders live.

Question 13. Do you feel that posting of a sex offender's home address violates the offender's right to privacy?

Yes: 29 No: 316 Don't know: 66

77% of the completed surveys believed that this program does not violate the offender's right to privacy.

Question 15. I would like to see all convicted felons be required to register in a data base similar to the sex offenders.

Yes: 260 No: 51 Don't know: 66

69% of the completed surveys would like to see all convicted felons listed on a data base of this type.

Question 3 dealt with what type of notification the respondent received. Most of the respondents, that attended a notification meeting, received a meeting notice sent out by the Lake Worth School District. Other attendees read notices that were posted in area stores or were told of the meetings by friends or family. We had several people attend the meetings from surrounding cities.

Question 14 dealt with the respondent's opinion on the current sex offender registration laws. Out of the 517 returned surveys, 374 persons answered this question.

Too Strict: 7 Adequate: 83 Too Lenient: 204 No Opinion: 80

55% of the respondents believed the current laws are too lenient.

22% of the respondents believed the current laws are adequate.

2% of the respondents believed the current laws are too strict.

21% of the respondents had no opinion.

Respondent information:

Male: 116 Female 280 Total: 396

Several surveys appeared to have been completed by both male and female (husband and wife). Approximately 100 surveys were returned with no indication of sex of the respondent.

Respondent age groups:

18 to 30 years old 20

30 to 40 years old 46

40 to 50 years old 46

50 to 70 years old 117

70+ years old 85

Approximately 200 respondents did not disclose their age.

APPENDIX 4

Citizen Survey Results



Figure 1. Public opinion on level of the Sex Offender Registration Law.

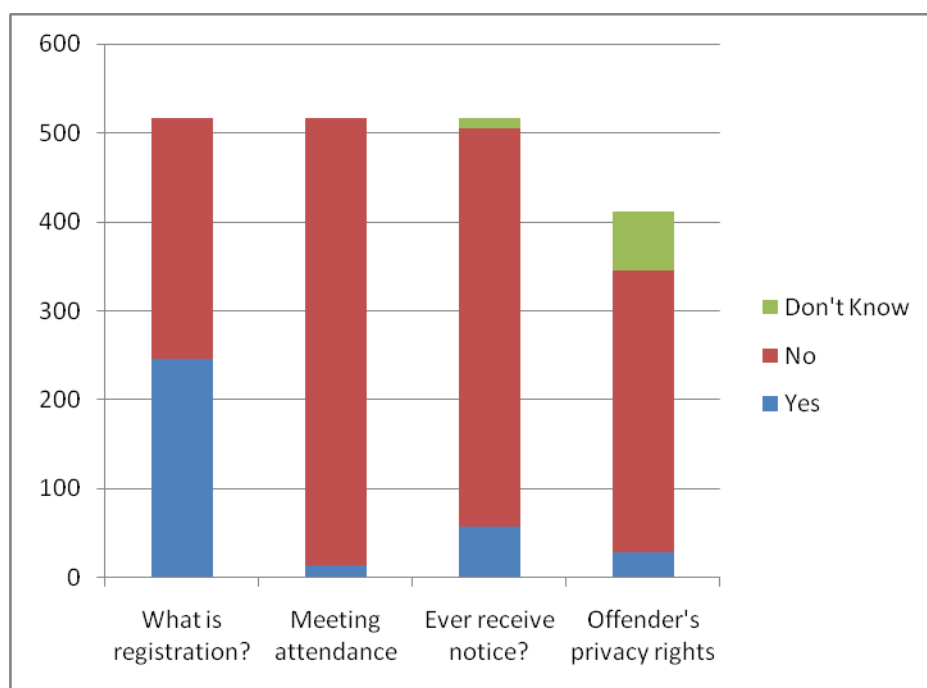


Figure 2. Citizen's opinion of registration and notification.

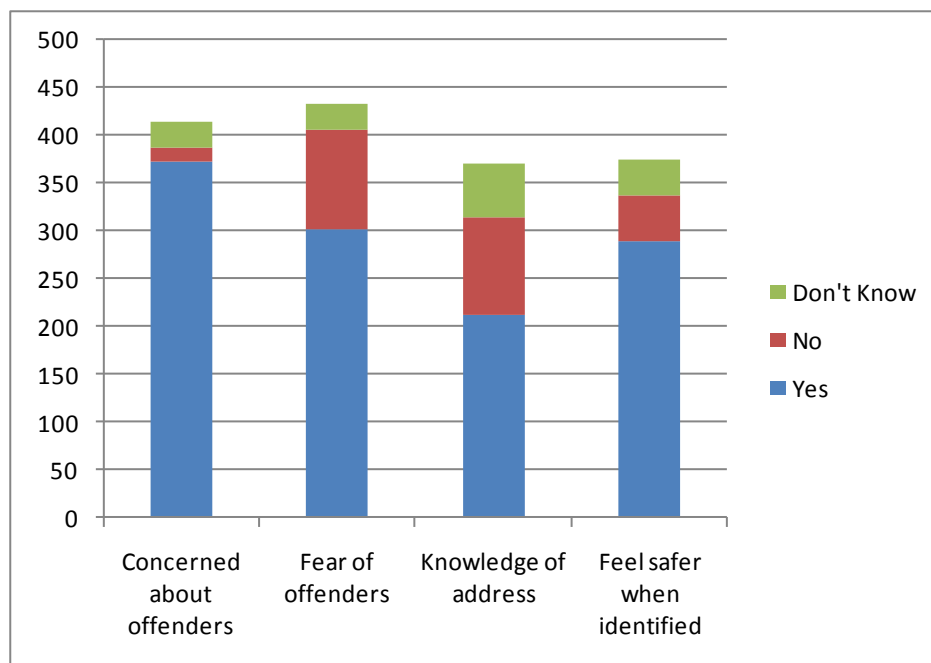


Figure 3. Citizen's opinion of personal safety.

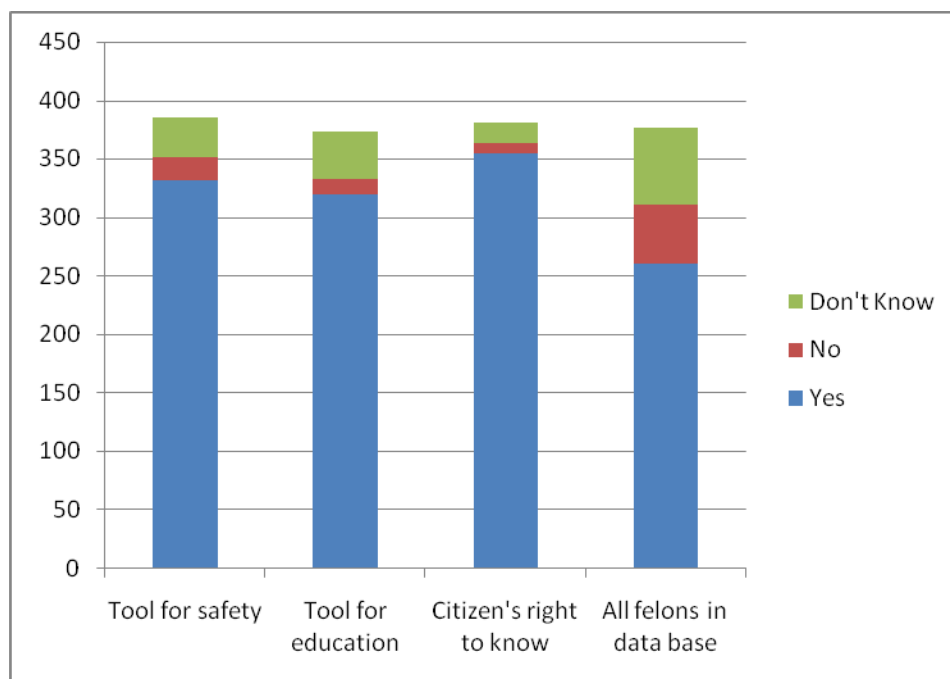


Figure 4. Citizen's opinion of the laws intent.