



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**What:** Community Forum on Sex Offenders

**When:** Tuesday, Sept. 29 6:30- 8 pm

**Where:** Joyce Beers Community Center

## **Councilmember Gloria Joins with SAFE Task Force to Educate Families on How to Protect Children from Molest**

SAN DIEGO, CA, Sept. 29, 2009: The first mid-city community forum to educate citizens about the facts and myths of sexual offending against children will be held Sept. 29 at the Joyce Beers Community Center in the Uptown Shopping District. Sponsored by San Diego SAFE Task Force and Third District Council Representative Todd Gloria, this free community program will be offered from 6:30-8 pm. The Beers Community Center is located at 1230 Cleveland Ave. near the Ralphs grocery store.

“Councilmember Gloria has demonstrated tremendous leadership concerning this critical public safety issue. He was one of the first newly-elected council members to immerse himself in the issues and challenges presented by sex offenders in our city,” said Deputy District Attorney Phyllis A. Shess, Executive Chair of the SAFE Task Force. “We can best protect our children when we have facts and know the red flags that may indicate abuse. Our goal through these forums is to provide that information to San Diego citizens.”

The issues to be discussed include current sex offenses requiring registration, how to use the Megan’s Law website and tips for identifying when your child or teenager may be the subject of sexual abuse.

“Nearly 90% of children who are victimized are molested by someone known to them and to their family” warns Shess. Violations from within that “Circle of Trust” can be among the most devastating to children and their caregivers.

“We want the public to know and understand risk factors so they can take appropriate steps to protect themselves from potential harm,” notes Shess. “Being involved with all aspects of your child’s life and the people they come in contact with is critical. “

The SAFE Task Force is a county-wide law enforcement collaboration whose mission is to enforce sex offender registration laws and to protect the community from future sexual offenses.

The neighborhood forums will be presented throughout San Diego County for the next two years. They are being offered in cooperation with the San Diego Sex Offender Management Council under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

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