



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:
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Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Community Notification: Level III Sex Offender

Port Orchard, Wash. – The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office is releasing the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550, and a Washington State Supreme Court decision in *State vs. Ward*, regarding public notification of the anticipated residency of convicted sexual offenders.

"The person who is named in this advisory has been convicted of criminal offenses that require registration with the sheriff's office in the county of residence," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "Further, his previous criminal history places him in a classification level that reflects the *potential* to re-offend."

Name: Jeremy David Lelko, white male, age 30.

Residence location: Lelko is scheduled to be released from prison on Friday, July 3, 2009, after having been incarcerated with the Washington State Department of Corrections since August 2000. Lelko has registered with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office as a transient, with no fixed address. As a transient, Lelko is required to check-in with the sheriff's office once per week.

Description: 6' 02" ht., 210 lbs. wt., hair: brown, eyes: green.

Criminal history: According to court documents Lelko was convicted of child molestation, 3rd degree, in 1998 for having a sexual relationship with a 14 year-old girl. In 2000 he was convicted of child molestation, 1st and 2nd degree, after sexually assaulting two seven year-old girls and a nine year-old girl. The victims were known to Lelko.

As a juvenile he has convictions for burglary (two counts), possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and for operating a motor vehicle after consuming alcoholic intoxicants.

While in prison Lelko was charged with numerous infractions. He refused to participate in sex offender treatment while incarcerated.

Community meeting: Since Lelko is a transient, no community meeting is scheduled.

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Jeremy David Lelko

(Washington State Department of Corrections photograph)

This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, an informed public is a safer public.

The sheriff's office has no legal authority to direct where a registered sex offender may or may not reside. Unless court-ordered restrictions exist, registered offenders are constitutionally free to live wherever they choose.

Sexual offenders have always lived within our communities. It wasn't until passage of legislation entitled the "Community Protection Act of 1990," which mandates sex offender registration, that civil authorities even knew where they were living.

Abuse of information provided through the sex offender notification process, in order to intimidate, harass or threaten registered offenders, will result in an investigation and the filing of criminal charges against the perpetrators. Such abuse could potentially end law enforcement's ability to conduct community notifications. The only person who 'wins,' if community notification is halted, is the registered sex offender, as sexual offenders derive their power through secrecy.

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As of June 22, 2009 there are 20,273 sex offenders who have registered as required and are living in the State of Washington. Of this number, 511 are living in locations within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County, while 245 offenders are living within the limits of incorporated municipalities in the county; 88 are incarcerated in jail or with the state department of corrections and 16 are transient.

The sheriff's community resource officer, Deputy Pete Ball, is available to assist communities in establishing block or neighborhood watch programs and to provide the public with information on personal safety. He may be contacted at (360) 337-7074.

For further information on registered sex offenders in Kitsap County, please contact Detective Doug Dillard at (360) 337-5617.

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