



CITY OF LAS VEGAS

1700 N. Grand Las Vegas, NM 87701 454-1401 www.lasvegasnm.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2009

CONTACT: Mercy López
454-1401 ext. 294 or
505-426-7594

CITY VOTES TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL PREDATORS

LAS VEGAS, NM – The City Council approved an amendment to the city's criminal code to prohibit convicted sexual offenders from living in near proximity to where children normally congregate in a city council meeting held tonight on the campus of New Mexico Highlands University. On a split vote, the governing body ratified the Mayor Tony E. Marquez Jr's. recommendation to approve the amendment on a 3-2 vote. Voting in support were councilors Cruz Roybal and Morris Madrid and breaking the tie was Mayor Marquez. Opposed were councilors Diane Moore and Andrew Feldman.

"Children are our most vulnerable citizens," Marquez said. "We need to create ordinances to protect them from convicted sexual predators."

The amended ordinance to Criminal Code No. 75-15 prohibits convicted sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of a public or private elementary or secondary schools, playgrounds, parks, recreational fields, daycare facilities and the city's Abe Montoya Recreation Center. The Las Vegas Police Department will determine the distance from the closest boundary line from a convicted sex offender to the prohibited area. Convicted sex offenders currently living within the prohibited area will be exempt from the approved ordinance.

"This ordinance is vital to provide a safe haven for children," Mayor Marquez said. "Sex offender recidivism is a constant threat. We must protect the health, safety and welfare of our community's children against sexual predators."

Penalties for violating this ordinance are a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment up to 90 days or both for each violation.

Marquez said, “this ordinance will improve public safety for our most vulnerable members of society – the children.”

###