RESOLUTION NO. 7760

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmembers Jeff Preisner, John Nave and Clark Duffy concerning the need for legislation that will protect children and their families from sex offenders.

WHEREAS, protecting children is our first and most sacred obligation as members of the human species and public safety is the first obligation of government; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing population of over a half million registered sex offenders released into our communities throughout the United States, representing a clear and present danger to our children; and

WHEREAS, laws regarding the criminal punishment and long-term correctional supervision of sexual offenders are primarily the responsibility of state government; and

WHEREAS, monitoring convicted sexual offenders who have been released into our communities should not be the primary responsibility of ordinary citizens, who are neither trained nor prepared for such a burden, nor insured against liability for consequences should they attempt the task; and

WHEREAS, requiring released sexual offenders to maintain their names and addresses on a Registry — even when such a Registry is available to the general public and compliance is enforced through Globally Positioning Satellite or other technologies—is in no way equivalent to professional surveillance and meaningful, court-ordered restrictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the City of Topeka, Kansas hereby expresses its strong
conviction that individuals convicted of sexual crimes against children should be
incarcerated in the state prison, and that they should only be released into our
communities as a last resort. However, in order to safeguard Kansas children and families
in the event that individuals known to be dangerous to children are released into our
communities, we call upon the Kansas legislature to take swift legislative action to enact
laws that accomplish the following:

1. Enact laws that protect communities by requiring longer prison sentences
for those convicted of sexual crimes.

2. Ensure that no person convicted of a first-time sexual crime against a child
shall be released into our communities unless he is under intensive parole
or probation supervision for a minimum of ten (10) years, in addition to
being required to register as a sex offender.

3. Ensure that no person convicted of a repeat sexual crime against a child
shall be released into our communities unless he is under lifetime intensive
parole or probation supervision, in addition to being required to register as a
sex offender.

4. Provide funding that will ensure appropriate levels of intensive probation or
parole supervision for every sexual offender released into our communities.
“Intensive probation or parole supervision” shall include highly-specialized
officers, well-trained in the surveillance and containment of sex offenders,
without additional responsibilities for supervising non-sex offenders.
Caseloads shall be lower than standard probation or parole caseloads. The legislature's intent shall be clear that the failure of individual offenders to comply with parole or probation conditions shall not be construed as a failure of the supervision program.

5. Ensure that adequate state funding is made available for services that will assist victims of sexual crimes in recovering from the trauma inflicted upon them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon passage of this Resolution, the City Manager is hereby directed to mail the Resolution to the Governor and members of the Shawnee County legislative delegation.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council  FEB 8 2006

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

[Signature]
William W. Bunten, Mayor

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Iris E. Walker, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
DATE 2/28/06 BY }