



Park Safety Zone Ordinance Briefing & Discussion for Potential Amendment

**Public Safety Committee
April 20, 2021**

Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police

Presentation Overview



Overview of
Current Park Safety
Zone Ordinance

Discussion of
Potential
Amendment to add
School Safety Zones

Park Safety Zone Ordinance

Approved by City Council in December 2013

- It is a Class C misdemeanor for a person required to register as a sex offender to have a temporary or permanent residence within 1,000 feet of a park, or to enter or come within 300 feet of a city park
 - Residence and park restriction does not include most of the Riverwalk on the street level
 - Exceptions for attending official meetings and voting
 - Affirmative defenses include that the person lived at the location prior to enactment
 - Chief of Police can grant an exemption

SAPD Sex Offender Registration (SORD) Detail

SORD is responsible for the registration of persons subject to *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 62: Sex Offender Registration Program* and for enforcing registration requirements

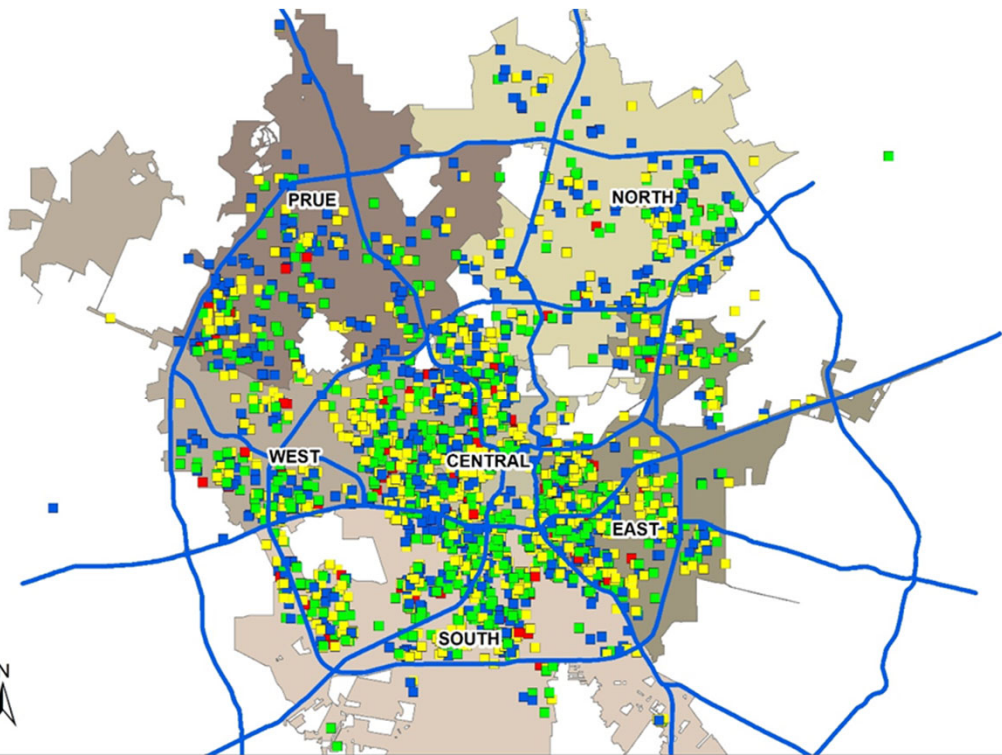
- **2 Officers**

- Registration of offenders
- Update the DPS website
- Notifications to school district administrators

- **3 Detectives**

- Monitor registrants through home visits to ensure compliance
- File cases against registrants who fail to comply with Chapter 62 requirements

SAPD Enforcement



The Sex Offender Registration Detail (SORD) monitors approximately 2,900 registered sex offenders

- Register 480 offenders a month. Includes new registrants & mandatory verifications
- Conduct home visits on 240 offenders a month to verify registration information
- SORD detectives file charges on an average of 15 offenders a month for registration violations

School District Outreach

On March 29, the SAPD, in coordination with Education Service Center Region 20, hosted a meeting with area school districts to discuss:

- Sex Offender Registration Requirements
- SORD Role and Responsibilities
- School Outreach and Coordination
- Data and Information Sharing
- Existing Ordinance and possible amendments

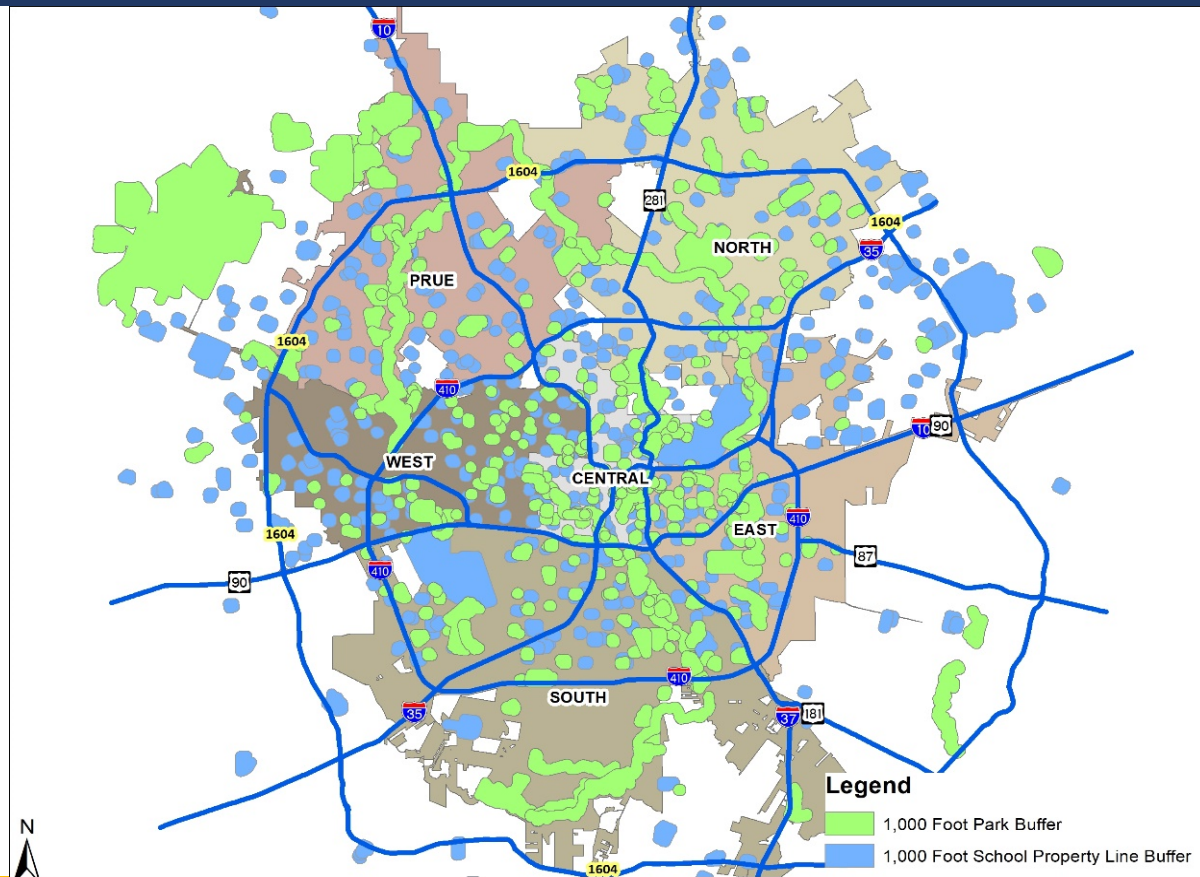


Potential Ordinance Amendment for discussion

Expand residency restriction for registered sex offenders to include schools

- City Council can amend current ordinance to include restrictions around schools
- City may not limit places where sex offenders can live as to effectively prohibit offenders from living within city limits

Potential Park & School Restrictions



Next Steps

- SAPD seeks input from Public Safety Committee
- Continue coordination with schools
- Amendment to current ordinance would provide another tool for law enforcement – Clear expectations
- Review other similar ordinances in Texas and understand enforcement
- Bring a recommended draft ordinance to Public Safety Committee for further discussion and possible action



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