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Onorato Signs Sex Offender Residency Restriction Ordinance

PITTSBURGH — Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato signed into law an ordinance that prohibits registered sexual offenders from living within 2,500 feet of a school, child care center, community center, public park or playground.

“While Megan’s Law requires sex offenders to register their addresses with local police departments, it does not restrict where they can live,” said Onorato. “Today, Allegheny County is taking action to provide another level of security and protection for our children by imposing residency restrictions on sex offenders. The public’s strong support of this ordinance and County Council’s unanimous passage demonstrate the importance of this issue.”

County Council approved the ordinance, which was introduced by Councilman Vince Gastgeb of Bethel Park, with a vote of 13-0 on October 23.

“I am pleased that this bill received strong bipartisan support among my fellow Council members, that it passed unanimously, and that it has now been signed by the Chief Executive,” said Gastgeb. “This is a necessary measure for our County and is an excellent first step in filling a dangerous gap in Pennsylvania’s Megan’s Law.”

The ordinance will be reviewed by the County Solicitor and County Police to determine how it will be enforced. The law does not affect registered sex offenders already living within 2,500 feet of schools, child care centers, parks and playgrounds.

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