NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt

Fourth District, San Bernardino County

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Ovitt Rolls Out GPS Monitoring of High Risk Offenders

San Bernardino- 4th District Supervisor Gary Ovitt joined by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a three-year contract with Sentinel Offender Services to provide continuous Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) tracking services for use with adult probationers.

The expanded GPS tracking system was a project Supervisor Ovitt had campaigned on, and had worked with County Probation since December to implement.

"Today's vote solidifies the commitment to use state-of-the-art technology to protect our residents from those individuals who prey on the young and innocent. In the past few weeks we have been reminded of the pain that parents of the victimized experience. The more we can do to safeguard our children and spare parents from such a horrific experience, the better," said Supervisor Ovitt.

Of the 2300 probationers within the 4th District, over 150 are on probation for domestic violence and over 40 for sexual offenses; the two most likely categories to be placed on the GPS service. The new expanded tracking service will create "Exclusionary Zones" in which the Probation Department will receive an alert to notify them when a probationer enters a prohibited area. These "Exclusionary Zones" can be drawn around schools, parks and victims' residences.

"With this technology, San Bernardino County becomes the first county in California to implement a GPS program through its Probation department," stated Ovitt. "Simply put, San Bernardino County now offers the highest level of supervision possible for these High Risk offenders short of incarceration. All of this at no cost to taxpayers. Probationers will pay to participate in this program through a sliding scale system."

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