



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
KCSO news release #09-003 / 125 / 38

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009

Community Notification: Level III Sex Offender

Port Orchard, Wash. – The Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office is releasing the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550, and a Washington State Supreme Court decision in *State vs. Ward*, regarding public notification of the anticipated residency of convicted sexual offenders.

“The person who is named in this advisory has been convicted of criminal offenses that require registration with the sheriff’s office in the county of residence,” said Sheriff Steve Boyer. “Further, his previous criminal history places him in a classification level that reflects the *potential* to re-offend.”

Name: John Paul Cozzie, white male, age 28.

Residence location: Cozzie has **re-registered** with Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office as now residing in the 1900 block of SW Cook Road, South Kitsap. Cozzie’s previous registered address was in the City of Bremerton.

Description: 6’ 02” ht., 150 lbs. wt., hair: brown, eyes: brown

Criminal history: According to court documents Cozzie was convicted of rape, 3rd degree, in 2000, after sexually assaulting an adult male. In 1999 he was convicted of assault, 2nd degree (with sexual motivation) after sexually assaulting an adult woman. Both victims were known to him.

He has also been convicted of failure to register as a sex offender, numerous assaults and various property crimes. He committed major infractions while incarcerated including sexual acts with other inmates.

Community meeting: There will be a community notification meeting, concerning Cozzie, at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, in the Kitsap Room of the Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Avenue, Port Orchard.



John Paul Cozzie

This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, an informed public is a safer public.

The Sheriff's Office has no legal authority to direct where a registered sex offender may or may not reside. Unless court-ordered restrictions exist, registered offenders are constitutionally free to live wherever they choose.

Sexual offenders have always lived within our communities. It wasn't until passage of legislation entitled the "Community Protection Act of 1990," which mandates sex offender registration, that civil authorities even knew where they were living.

Abuse of information provided through the sex offender notification process, in order to intimidate, harass or threaten registered offenders, will result in an investigation and the filing of criminal charges against the perpetrators. Such abuse could potentially end law enforcement's ability to conduct community notifications. The only person who 'wins,' if community notification is halted, is the registered sex offender, as sexual offenders derive their power through secrecy.

As of Jan. 8, 2009 there are 20,171 sex offenders who have registered as required and are living in the State of Washington. Of this number, 412 are living in locations within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County, while 240 offenders are living within the limits of incorporated municipalities in the county; 86 are incarcerated in jail or with the state department of corrections and 15 are transient.

The Sheriff's Community Resource Officer, Deputy Pete Ball, is available to assist communities in establishing block or neighborhood watch programs and to provide the public with information on personal safety. He may be contacted at (360) 337-7074.

For further information on registered sex offenders in Kitsap County, please contact Detective Doug Dillard at (360) 337-5617.

###