

## Response to Questions on the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan

**Request By:** Supervisor Cook

**Question:** Please provide recidivism statistics on sexual offenders.

**Response:** There are approximately 400 registered sex offenders who live and/or work in Fairfax County. In 2008, nineteen sex offenders were charged by the SPEAD Team for failing to register. Of the nineteen, eighteen of them live and work in Fairfax County and one individual claims Fairfax County as his work address only. In 2008, the SPEAD Team documented eight repeat sexual offenders; one of whom is currently wanted for Attempted Murder of a Police Officer. From these eight repeat offenders, six (75 percent) were charged with violent sex offenses (See Diagram A.)

The low amount of out-of-compliance sex offenders and repeat offenders is attributed to the effort the SPEAD Team puts forth in registry verifications. Measuring success rates on prevention or the absence of crime is challenging but the low number of repeat offenders certainly suggests this. The SPEAD Team conducts verification visits to every registered sexual offender in Fairfax County. This verification process sends a strong message of awareness and diligence that lets the registrant know that the Police Department know who they are, where they are, what they have done, and what they are doing. Most importantly, they know that the Police Department is watching them. They are therefore discouraged to re-offend and, in all but eight instances, the SPEAD Team has been successful.

In addition to registry verifications, the SPEAD Team is assigned a variety of cases for investigation. These cases range from suspicious persons to peepings to online child exploitation. Many of these cases have reached their investigative end by a patrol officer and are sent to SPEAD for informational purposes. Absent of the SPEAD team, these cases would not be followed up for further investigation. These suspicious cases require more thorough investigations in an attempt to identify suspects and violations. On more than one occasion this follow up has prevented the sexual abuse of a child.

The SPEAD Team is ideally suited for early intervention and prevention of a crime. Offender's actions are monitored to deter their ability to re-offend, as well as, to detect new offenders through a range of investigative means. In the end, this provides a greater level of protection for children in Fairfax County from being sexually assaulted or murdered.

Below is a classic example of the progression of a sex offender from a non-violent criminal to a violent sex offender and ultimately to a violent repeat sex offender. The SPEAD Team and intelligence from files maintained in their office were a key factor to the successful identification of this individual as the suspect in a series of violent sexual assaults and his arrest and prosecution.

- 1987; Individual was first arrested by FCPD for Peeping into an Occupied Dwelling.

- 1988; Individual was again arrested by FCPD for Unlawful Entry.
- 1990; Individual was arrested for Burglary, Malicious Wounding and Sexual Battery.
  - o Sentenced to 30 years in prison
  - o **Registered as a Sex Offender**
- 2008; Individual was released from prison.
- 2008; A series of violent sexual attacks were reported in the Annandale and Falls Church areas.
- 2008; **Individual identified as a suspect through a routine sex offender registry verification by the SPEAD Team.**
  - o Intelligence files on Individual helped to develop a profile of him and his capabilities.
- 2008; February 6<sup>th</sup>, multiple surveillance teams, to include SPEAD Team members, were conducting active surveillance on this individual when he violently attacked a female by tackling her and dragging her under shrubbery while he covered her mouth to muffle her screams. This individual was attempting to remove the victim's pants as the surveillance teams arrived and stopped the attack. This all happened in under a minute.
- 2009; February, individual was sentenced to **Life in Prison.**
- Had it not been for the efforts of the SPEAD Team, this individual would not have been identified as quickly as he had and *at least* one additional sexual assault (possibly rape) would have taken place.

Diagram A.

