

## Freeholders to Ban Sex Offenders in Parks; Sullivan Seeks Resignation of Hastert

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

ELIZABETH — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is scheduled to vote tonight to adopt an ordinance that would prohibit "registered sex offenders from loitering within 300 feet of any county-owned playgrounds."

The ordinance states that the freeholders felt it necessary to take action to "protect and ensure the health, safety and welfare of children within the county and not to penalize registered sex offenders" per the state's Megan's Law.

Under the ordinance, loitering is defined as "a person who wanders or remains idle in essentially one location, sits, lounges, loafs, walks about aimlessly, or repeatedly frequents the same location, or repeatedly circles in a motor vehicle." The ordinance would be enforced by the Union County Police Department.

Violators face a minimum fine of \$100 and maximum of \$1,250 and/or imprisonment or community service of 90 days on the first offense. Repeat offenders face an additional \$1,250 fine.

The freeholders are also expected to take action to seek the resignation of House of Representatives Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) per the scandal involving former Rep. Mark Foley of Florida.

Freeholder Dan Sullivan asked at last Thursday's agenda meeting that a

resolution be placed on tonight's meeting agenda seeking Mr. Hastert's resignation per the scandal involving former Florida Rep. Foley. Mr. Foley resigned September 29 after news broke of his alleged inappropriate e-mails to a 16-year-old page.

Mr. Sullivan said the board should go on record if Mr. Hastert does not resign due to what he said was the Republican congressional leaders' advanced knowledge of Mr. Foley's e-mails.

"We will send a note" to Washington if Mr. Hastert does not resign, Mr. Sullivan said.

The freeholders held a 45-minute executive session at the start of the agenda meeting to discuss labor negotiations with the assistant prosecutors and parks and public works supervisors unions.

Behind closed doors, the freeholders received an update on the status of contract negotiations with the assistant prosecutors. Union County assistant prosecutors have attended recent freeholder meetings and told the board last week that they are not happy with the progress in contract talks.

A union representative called three offers made by the county "insulting." Union representatives say they are the 13th of the 21 counties in salaries and have dropped on the pay scale over the past six years.

Freeholder Chairman Al Mirabella invited union representatives last week to update the board on contract

talks at the October 5 meeting.

During the business portion of the October 5 meeting, the board reviewed resolutions, including one to execute a jurisdictional agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation "detailing jurisdictional responsibilities for drainage" at the intersection of Route 22 and New Providence Road in Mountainside.

The board reviewed resolutions accepting an \$80,000 state grant for the county's Comprehensive Traffic Safety Program, a \$118,000 grant for the Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Task Force and \$13,560 for the Sex Offender Registry Program.

### Sisterhood to Conduct Benefit Fashion Show

CRANFORD — The Sisterhood of Temple Beth El Mevor Chayim, located at 338 Walnut Avenue in Cranford, will hold a fashion show on Wednesday, October 18, at the temple. This event will start at 6:30 p.m. and includes a dairy dinner, Coldwater Creek fashions modeled by sisterhood members and a dessert table featuring a chocolate fountain.

The cost is \$20 per person and all proceeds will be dedicated to a temple renovation project. For more information, contact Jackie Baranoff at imsonshine@comcast.net or Abbe Fried at afried325@comcast.net.



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