



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIANNE JACOB, SAFE TASK FORCE JOIN TO PROTECT KIDS

Series of Community Forums Will Educate Parents in Preventing Molestation

The first in a series of on-going countywide community forums to educate citizens about the facts and myths of sexual offenses against children will be launched Sept. 24 by Supervisor Dianne Jacob and the San Diego Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Task Force. The first free community forum will be at the Grossmont Heath Care Conference Center, 9001 Wakarusa St. in La Mesa, from 2 to 4 p.m.

“Supervisor Jacob has been at the forefront of this critical public safety issue for more than a decade, so we are honored to have her join us in the first of a series of programs that will be presented throughout San Diego County,” said Deputy District Attorney Phyllis A. Shess, Executive Chair of the SAFE Task Force. “We can best protect our children when we have facts and know the red flags that may indicate abuse.”

“If someone seems to love your child as much as you do, or seems to be as interested or involved in your child's life as you are, be cautious. If that person is buying gifts for your child, offering to take the child places and beginning to occupy a large part of your child's life, ask yourself why. It may be innocent and well-intentioned. But it may be more sinister,” warns Shess.

“We want the public to know and understand risk factors so they can take appropriate steps to protect themselves from potential harm,” notes Shess. “Being involved with all aspects of your child's life and the people they come in contact with is critical.”

The SAFE Task Force is a countywide law enforcement collaboration whose mission is to enforce sex offender registration laws and to protect the community.

The neighborhood forums will be presented throughout San Diego County for the next two years. The next scheduled program is in Hillcrest on Sept. 29.

The programs are being offered in cooperation with the San Diego Sex Offender Management Council under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. ###

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