



GROSSMONT-MT. HELIX IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Preserving the Character of Our Community

April 19, 2021

SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR BADGER PLACEMENT AT 10957 HORIZON HILLS DRIVE COURT HEARING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Grossmont-Mt. Helix Improvement Association (GMIA), along with the greater community, is prepared to fight against the placement of Sexually Violent Predator Douglas Badger at 10957 Horizon Hills Drive, El Cajon at a Court Hearing in front of Judge Theodore Weathers on Tuesday, April 20 at 9 a.m.

GMIA and the community received information on the release from the news media on March 29 and the community has been working nonstop to fight this placement. Just one week after hearing about Mr. Badger's release, we received an additional notice that another Sexually Violent Predator, Merle Wade Wakefield, was to be placed in the same house.

Douglas Badger, 78, is diagnosed with Sexual Sadism Disorder. Between 1959 and 1991, he was convicted of several offenses including child molestation, kidnapping and forcible oral copulation in concert.

Wakefield, 63, was convicted of a felony charge of lewd acts with a minor child under 14 in 1981, and was sentenced to state prison. Wakefield was again convicted of a felony charge of rape in 1990 and again sentenced to state prison. On Nov. 23, 1998, San Diego Superior Court found Wakefield to be a Sexually Violent Predator and he was committed to the Department of State Hospitals for sex offender treatment and confinement. In 2000, Wakefield was recommitted to DSH and in 2009 was again recommitted to the Department of State Hospitals for an indeterminate term. Wakefield's court hearing is scheduled for May 10.

Since learning about the release of Badger and Wakefield, the community has been moved into action. Protests have been held on street corners and more than 400 people attended a rally on April 6. Community members contacted elected officials, sent out hundreds of flyers, and printed up dozens of large posters and yard signs that have been placed around the community.



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More than 600 emails, over 100 voice mails, 20 letters and two petitions – one with 580 signatures and the second with 1,750 digital signatures -- were sent in to Judge Weathers opposing Badger's release to our neighborhood. The community has also been informed about the cases through social media posts on Facebook, Nextdoor and Twitter, GMIA.net website, email and at least 10 reports on television, radio and newspapers. Following the suggestion of Sen. Brian Jones, community members are asking Gov. Gavin Newsom to intercede and place Badger in a trailer on the property of a state correctional facility.

The neighborhood surrounding 10957 Horizon Hills, just outside El Cajon, has about 400 family homes, with an approximate population of 1,600 that includes 89 children within 2,000 feet of the address. There are six schools and three parks within one mile of the house, with 700 students at Fuerte Elementary School. There is a daycare located right across the street from the house. Since the schools are so close to the homes, no busing for the students is provided in this area.

At the April 20 hearing, at least eight elected officials and more than 20 members of the community are planning to speak. The speakers will address the reasons why they are opposed to having two Sexually Violent Predators in our community, such as the locations of schools and families nearby, code violations at the property, housing selection, concerns about the dense canyon area behind the house, the lack of streetlights and sidewalks in the area, and the decline in property values.

"GMIA joins with the rest of the community in fighting the placement of these Sexually Violent Predators," said Kathleen Hedberg, president of GMIA. "This is a situation that poses a great risk of harm to the families and children who will live in fear if these predators are placed there."

END

GMIA is an 83 year-old non-profit public benefit corporation that represents approximately 7,000 households with 20,000 residents. Their mission is to preserve and enhance the character and quality of the community.

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