



The Jacob Journal

Merry Christmas from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

November/December 2006

High Tech Jewelry Keeps DUI Offenders In Line Jacob says alcohol-detecting ankle bracelets will make roadways safer

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There is no such thing as a drunk driving accident.

The senseless deaths, the life-changing injuries and all the grief and furor brought about by DUI crashes are entirely preventable if only drinkers would stay out of the driver's seat.

Especially infuriating are the supremely irresponsible individuals with prior DUI arrests who proceed to get drunk and take to our roadways again and again. The County's Probation Department estimates that repeat offenders account for one quarter of all DUI arrests.

This holiday season, a time when DUI arrests go up, Supervisor Jacob and her colleagues on the Board of Supervisors are gift shopping for drinkers who can't learn how to put down the car keys.

The County has in mind a special piece of jewelry called an alcohol detecting ankle bracelet. The bracelet doesn't sparkle. It does something better. It saves lives.

How does it work? Typically, repeat DUI offenders are prohibited from drinking alcohol as a condition of being placed on probation rather than going to jail, whether

they plan to drive or not. County probation officers monitor these repeat offenders by unannounced home visits, dropping by treatment sessions and frequent drug and alcohol testing.

Strapped around the ankles of repeat

offenders, the bracelets would alert probation officers to the presence of alcohol in an offender's system. By constantly testing perspiration, the bracelets work round-the-clock to hold offenders accountable for breaking the rules.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and many family members of victims of DUI crashes agree that the bracelets will serve as powerful deterrents to keep repeat offenders from reaching for the booze.

San Diegan Luann Hoffman lost her 14-year-old nephew to a drunk driver in Spring Valley. The driver had two prior DUIs, a suspended license and warrants out for his arrest when he got behind the wheel of a friend's pickup truck two years ago.

"If this was in place in 2004, maybe the offender would have been supervised more closely," Hoffman said supporting Supervisor Jacob's request that the County explore investing in the bracelets.

"Maybe he would not have been able to drive on that particular night and my nephew would still be alive," she added.



LEASHED: Alcohol detecting ankle bracelets like this one will help stop repeat DUI crashes.



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Supervisor Jacob believes the lifesaving bracelets may have the added benefit of preserving precious taxpayer dollars.

It takes \$90 a day to keep a repeat DUI offender in jail,

according to the Sheriff's Department. According to a leading manufacturer, the estimated daily price tag for one bracelet is less than \$15 dollars day, including equipment and monitoring costs.

Because the opportunity exists to force the offenders to

pay for the new technology, taxpayers could experience significant savings.

The County Probation

Department has long been at the forefront of keeping tabs on repeat DUI offenders. This past June the department secured a \$1.1 million State grant to keep a closer eye on gross

offenders, those with the highest odds of driving drunk again.

Under the grant, a special team of probation officers has been dedicated to the cause, but even the most tenacious officer can't work 24 hours straight.

The bracelets, on the other hand, never sleep.

"The bracelet doesn't sparkle. It does something better. It saves lives."

Some 20 states and 200 cities and counties are already using the technology. It time to launch the program here.

In California, drunk driving arrests are up from 15,924 in 2000 to 17,129 in 2004, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

On our local roadways, two lives are unfairly snatched away by drunk drivers each week.

Alcohol-detecting ankle bracelets promise to save lives and there's no better Christmas present than that.

Learn more about efforts to stop drunk driving at www.maddsandiego.org.

New Loitering Ordinance Targets Registered Sex Offenders

libraries and other child-friendly locations. Individuals caught in violation of the ordinance would be charged with a misdemeanor and could face up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

"There is no conclusive evidence that says sex offenders who prey on kids can be rehabilitated and until then, we can build this invisible fence to protect kids from potential predators," Supervisor Jacob said.

Jacob was a vocal supporters of Proposition 83, also called Jessica's Law, which bars registered sex offenders from living near schools and parks. The measure was approved overwhelmingly by California voters Nov. 7, but its residency restriction faces a legal challenge. The Board of Supervisors is expected to formally adopt the ordinance Dec. 5 and it will take effect early January 2007.

There are almost 4000 registered sex offenders residing in San Diego County, according to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

A new ordinance promises to help unincorporated area law enforcement officers keep sex offenders away from potential victims, particularly children.

Introduced by Supervisor Jacob and colleague Supervisor Greg Cox, the ordinance would ban registered sex offenders from loitering within 300 feet of schools, parks,



Community Round Up

Cracking Down on Theft of Metals

On the heels of a dramatic surge in thefts of metals, including bronze vases at cemetery gravesites, the County wants to enlist recyclers in the fight to catch the thieves.

At the request of Supervisor Jacob, the County is sending letters to local mayors letting them know that recycling centers are required by law to keep a record of the metals they buy and the names of sellers. The high prices of industrial metals may be fueling the rise in thefts. Cemeteries, scrap yards and construction sites have all been hit.

The County's legal team also is researching a ordinance that could aid the effort.

Raising a Glass to Ramona

With 20 commercial vineyards and nine distinct wineries— two with tasting rooms— the Ramona Valley is a talked-about wine region.

Supervisor Jacob and the County are making it easier for small, so-called "boutique" wineries in unincorporated communities to broaden their operations. By joining forces with the San Diego County Farm Bureau and the Ramona Valley Vineyard Association, the County wants to help

simplify regulations on wineries. The goal is to foster, not complicate, the region's burgeoning wine industry. Cheers to Ramona's wine future.



Learn more about Ramona Valley vineyards at www.ramonavalleyvineyards.com.

Family Justice Center headed to East County



District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, Sheriff Bill Kolender, Supervisor Jacob and others have plans to create a Family Justice Center in East County to aid victims of

domestic violence.

Modeled on the flagship Family Justice Center in Downtown San Diego, the facility promises to be a "one-stop shop" for the many social services that victims need to rebuild their lives.

Families trapped in the complicated cycle of domestic violence should not have to drive from agency to agency, from waiting list to waiting list to navigate the recovery process. That's expensive, ineffective and too many people, especially kids, get lost in the shuffle.

The Family Justice Center fills the gaps by putting services under one roof. Law enforcement. Prosecutors. Schools. Doctors. Job training. Child abuse counselors. Faith-based services. The Family Justice Center closes the cracks and creates a powerful network of protection for families.

An 18-month planning process is underway now. Organizers are actively seeking private funding.

Merry Christmas

Supervisor Jacob wishes your family a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year in 2007!



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Nov/Dec

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