

**Statement Against the Placement of Merle G. Wakefield in the City of Poway**

**We, the undersigned residents of the City of Poway, strongly oppose the proposed placement of Merle G. Wakefield in our community due to serious safety concerns.**

**Background Information:**

Media reports that Merle G. Wakefield has a history of numerous and severe crimes, including rape, molestation, burglary, robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest, and trespassing. His criminal history includes 21 prior arrests (excluding juvenile record), 10 convictions, 10 admissions to correctional facilities (excluding parole revocations), 14 prior arrests for violent crimes (excluding sex offenses), 6 convictions for violent crimes (excluding sex offenses), 8 parole or conditional release failures, 7 prior arrests for sex offenses, 2 prior convictions for sex offenses, 6 prior arrests for rape, 1 rape conviction, 1 molestation arrest, and 1 molestation conviction. Court records also reveal that Wakefield confessed to raping a 79-year-old woman at age 12 and implied that many of his crimes went unreported. He has been described by his prison psychiatrist as a “textbook definition of a repeat offender” and “a danger to society.” Diagnosed with a personality disorder and uncontrollable impulses, the State Parole Board labeled him “a walking threat to all women.”

**Concerns:**

The proposed residence for Wakefield is dangerously close to multiple child-visited facilities, including three horse riding facilities, an elementary school, a public park, a girls' softball training center, and remote riding, hiking, and biking wilderness areas. Ride Above Disability, a therapeutic riding center for children with disabilities, is just 350 yards away. The location is within 1.3 miles of Garden Road Elementary School and 1.2 miles of Garden Road Park. Additionally, the nearby Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Preserve features over 10 miles of secluded trails used for hiking and exercising, making the area particularly vulnerable. Children frequently visit these horse facilities, sports facilities, parks, and wilderness areas, often walking and biking to and from school and the park. Located on a dead-end road, Wakefield must pass by the school and park every time he heads to town. If someone were seeking the perfect opportunity to commit a heinous crime against a child, woman, or vulnerable person, this proposed location would unfortunately provide an ideal setting.

**Call to Action:**

We urge the court to reconsider the placement of Merle G. Wakefield in our community and find a more suitable location that does not endanger our residents.

**Support:**

A multitude of local government officials, law enforcement, and community organizations in Poway oppose this placement.

By signing this Statement, we express our strong opposition to the placement of Merle G. Wakefield in our community and request immediate action to ensure our safety.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024  
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Submission Details: DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS JULY 22, 2024**

Please return signed Statements to REDEN | RIDDELL at 16885 Via Del Campo Court, Suite 320, San Diego, CA 92127 or by email to [fileclerk@redenriddell.com](mailto:fileclerk@redenriddell.com) or [sdsafe@sdsheriff.org](mailto:sdsafe@sdsheriff.org)