

With the recovery of Jaycee Dugard, missing for 18 years, recovered in the Antioch, California home of Sexual Offender Phillip Garrido, to the discovery of 11 deceased women in the Cleveland, Ohio home of Sexual Offender Anthony Sowell, 2009 has been a newsworthy year regarding Sexual Offenders and Predators and the crimes they commit. There has never been a more critical time than the present to stress the importance and need for Law Enforcement and Correctional personnel to effectively monitor convicted Sexual Offenders and Predators living among us in our communities.

The City of Sanford Police Department prides itself on its zero tolerance approach and zealous handling of violations committed by Sexual Offenders and Predators. The officers are committed to safeguarding and protecting our citizens against victimization by any Sexual Offender or Sexual Predator that resides within the community.

Seminole County, Florida is currently home to 295 convicted Sexual Offenders and Predators (combined numbers for all agencies). Of that 295, there are a total of 61 (54 Offenders/ 7 Predators) that call the City of Sanford home.

The Sanford Police Department has taken the extra proactive step needed when it comes to monitoring the Sexual Offenders/Predators that reside within the City of Sanford. I have made it mandatory that each Sexual Offender/Predator that resides in the City of Sanford is assigned a member of the police department who monitors their actions. Each year the agencies members conduct quarterly residential visits to the Offenders/Predators homes to verify that they are in compliance with their registration requirements as set forth by Florida law. By taking this extra precaution it has proved effective in catching violations committed by these subjects.

This year the City of Sanford Police Department affected 11 arrests of Sexual Offenders/Predators who failed to comply with their state law requirements. Among those arrested were two Sexual Offenders who had entered our community from other states who had failed to register as Sexual Offenders here in the State of Florida. Of those two Offenders one had committed a new sex crime here in our city for which he was subsequently arrested and is currently awaiting trial.

The City of Sanford Police Department encourages its citizens to visit SPD's newly designed website at www.Sanfordpolice.org which has exciting new features to include "C.R.O.P. (Criminal Repeat Offender Program)", "Sanford 10 Most Wanted", "Do you know me?" and a page dedicated to our Sexual Offenders/Predators. The Sexual Offender/Predator page offers photographs and demographical information on all Sexual Offenders/Predators that are residing among the citizens of the Sanford community. Should you have any questions or comments please contact the City of Sanford Police Department S.O.A.R.T. (Serious Offender Apprehension Response Team) Coordinator at SCabello@Sanfordfl.Gov or 407.688.5070 x6002.