



MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Chris Clark

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**Statement from Sheriff Chris Clark on the
Proposed Placement of Michael Cheek**

This week, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office learned that 25237 Terrace Grove Road in Los Gatos, within Santa Cruz County, has been proposed as a residence for Michael Cheek, who has been designated a sexually violent predator. The property is in a remote area of the Santa Cruz Mountains off Soquel San Jose Road.

Our Office assessed the property and surrounding area. Based on that assessment, I strongly oppose this placement.

The concerns are specific and serious. The home is surrounded by dense forest and steep terrain, with limited road access. Unreliable cellular service and GPS coverage could interfere with electronic monitoring, communication about a violation, and a timely law enforcement response. Narrow roads, abandoned structures, and recreational vehicles in the area could further complicate a search or apprehension.

Schools, a Girl Scout camp, a church, a public park, and neighborhoods where families live are also nearby. Routes to and from the property pass places where children and families regularly gather.

As sheriff, I have a responsibility to inform our community and the Court when a proposed placement raises foreseeable public safety concerns. As someone who calls Santa Cruz County home and raising my family here, I understand how deeply this news affects all of us throughout the county.

Mr. Cheek committed crimes in Santa Cruz County. That does not mean the people he harmed, or the community where those crimes occurred, should be asked to carry the risk of his placement here. He has never lived in this county and has no known family or support network here. For survivors of sexual violence, this proposal may bring painful memories back into their daily lives. For families living near the proposed home, it raises serious safety concerns.

I respectfully urge the court to reject the proposed placement at 25237 Terrace Grove Road. Our Office will continue to present its findings and advocate for the safety of the people we serve.

The proposed placement is subject to court approval at a hearing scheduled for October 30 at 1:30 p.m., before the Honorable Nancy De La Peña in Department 6. Community members who wish to provide written input may send comments to:

SVP@scdao.us or by mail to

SVP Unit
c/o Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060

All comments must be received prior to October 30th.

Contact: Ashley Keehn, Department Communications Officer
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