

POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

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Beloit Police Holding Community Meeting on Sex Offender Release Proposal

Feb. 6, 2018 – The Beloit Police Department is holding a public community meeting from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018, at the Beloit Historical Society, 845 Hackett St., about a proposal from the Wisconsin Department of Human Services to place a sex offender, whose convictions involve children, at 2219 Euclid Ave. A placement decision will soon be made in Douglas County Circuit Court, and the Beloit Police Department wants to inform and educate the public about this proposed action prior to the court hearing.

The upcoming court hearing involves 57-year-old Kenneth R. Cairns, who has a significant history of sexually assaulting juvenile boys between the ages of 9-13 in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. He has been committed under the state’s sexual violent person’s program since the early 2000s, but was approved for supervised release by Douglas County in October 2017. Cairns does not have ties to Beloit or Rock County, and none of his offenses occurred here.

Because of plea agreements and legal loopholes, Cairns is not labeled as a “serious child sex offender” - and the Department of Human Services is attempting to place him next door to a home with a 9-year-old boy. The Beloit Police Department is opposed to this placement and has asked that the supervised release plan being considered by the judge in Douglas County reflect the department’s opposition. Douglas County is nearly 400 miles away from Beloit, but the Wisconsin Department of Human Services feels Beloit is the only location available to house Cairns.

Another serious violent sex offender, Steven Schuelke, currently lives at the single-family residence at 2219 Euclid Ave. Schuelke’s sexual assault convictions involve crimes against girls ranging from 12-15 years old. The Beloit Police Department opposed that placement and is specifically concerned about the plan to have both Schuelke and Cairns reside in the same home.

Police Chief David Zibolski will give a brief presentation about Cairns’ background and open up the meeting for questions from the community.

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