



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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**JERRY E. POWERS**  
Chief Probation Officer

## “L.A. County Probation’s “Operation Tracker” Targets Sex Offenders on GPS”

### Media Availability at Probation’s Headquarters, Wednesday 5/8/13

Noon-2:00pm: Assistant Chief Margarita Perez  
Noon-3:00pm SEO Deputies Steven Howell and Steve Munguia  
Available: Video of operation on DVD

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WEDNESDAY MAY 8, 2013- Los Angeles County Probation has just concluded the Department’s largest Special Enforcement Operation so far this year. Thirty Special Enforcement Officers conducted 137 compliance checks and searches of AB 109 convicted felons who have histories of sex offenses. “Operation Tracker” covered all of Los Angeles County.

#### During the three week operation:

- Children were found in the same residence shared by the offender convicted of sexual offenses against children
- 21 AB 109 probationers were arrested
- 14 computers hard-drives and phones were seized
- Heroin, Methamphetamine and Marijuana were found along with a rifle, pepper spray and a PR22 baton.



Chief Jerry Powers states that L.A. County Probation initiated “Operation Tracker” as part of the Department’s on-going supervision of AB 109 offenders, “If you are a high risk offender out there, get ready. We are going to focus on you. The take-away of “Operation Tracker” is that Probation is going to continue to take an active role in the field to see where these offenders live, how they live and what they are doing.”

“According to the risk assessment we conducted on these offenders more 61% are assessed as high or very high risk,” says Assistant Chief Margarita Perez, “Only 1 to 2% are low risk

offenders. This is contrary to what we often hear in the media indicating these offenders are low risk. This is just not the case.”

Steven Howell is the lead supervisor on the operation. “When you go to a residence and you find a child or children in the home, it elevates the situation. It is no longer a ‘compliance check’. It is now an investigation. Your investigation focuses on the children. We have to ensure their safety and make certain no harm has been done to them, and the AB 109 probationer who is not allowed to reside with children is removed from the home.”  
LA County Probation independently initiated and executed these searches and seizures.



“‘Operation Tracker’ has been a great success,” says Deputy Probation Officer Steve Munguia, “Our department is making sure these individuals are not living by any schools, parks nor any specific ‘stay away’ zones and if they violate the terms of AB109 they will be arrested. You hear more stories on the news about attempted kidnappings of children. These operations keep our children safe and let the sex offenders know we are out there making sure they are held accountable.”

SEO Deputies conducted a thorough search and evaluation of the AB 109 probationer’s compliance, the working order of the GPS tracking hardware, checked for tampering and noted any risk for future home compliance checks conducted by AB 109 staff.

In addition to 45 officers, L.A. County Probation has approximately 25 probation officers who are co-located with local law enforcement. That includes the Sheriff’s Department and our local police departments. L.A. County Probation will continue to conduct joint operations with our law enforcement partners, but also initiate independent operations as needed. Los Angeles County Probation will have 100 armed special enforcement officers by the end of 2013.