

## Sex offenders not so rampant in Crescent City

October 15, 2021



On Oct. 8, Chief Richard Griffin of the Crescent City Police Department posted a comment on Facebook and met with the Del Norte TriPLICATE to clarify statistics erroneously reported in a recent article.

The TriPLICATE recently stated that Crescent City has 88 persons registered as sex offenders within city limits, based on data gathered by City-Data.com. However, Griffin stated that the actual number of sex offenders required to register within Crescent City is 41.

“What City-Data did, that’s the 95531 area code,” said Griffin. “So, that’s the greater Crescent City area, which stretches up to Hiouchi.”

Crescent City’s actual boundaries sever some nearby neighborhoods out of the jurisdiction of the CCPD, placing control of those areas within the Del Norte County Sheriff’s Department.

“We drive through county jurisdiction to deal with certain calls in the city,” said Griffin, who cited recent trash and camping complaints at Preston Island as an example.

Preston Island is a small islet with one road under the jurisdiction of the CCPD, but the base of which abruptly falls within the sovereignty of the Del Norte County Sheriff’s Department.

So, too, some neighborhoods with registered sex offenders not fall within Crescent City - even if those individuals’ home addresses require Crescent City to be written on a mailing envelope. Regardless, they may

fall under the jurisdiction of Del Norte County, and those living outside CCPD boundaries would be included under county-based population statistics.

“I clarified this on Facebook because I was getting a lot of heat on it today,” stated Griffin. “The whole thing is, yes, it’s a significant issue. I’m a father too and I’m not comfortable with that many sex offenders here. But these numbers (41 sex offenders) puts us on par with other areas.”

Using data not available to the public, Griffin shared that of the 41 registered sex offenders within CCPD’s jurisdiction, “we currently have 15 that are out of compliance with registration.”

Griffin further posted on Facebook that of those 15 people, the CCPD “currently has seven active arrest warrants and two are in custody in either jail or prison.”

“This leaves six offenders that we are currently working to get arrest warrants for violating their registration requirements,” stated Griffin.

Crescent City’s population, according to the 2019 Census bureau, is 6,787. However, that includes the all-male prison population of Pelican Bay.

According to the website of the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation Division of Correctional Policy Research & Internal Oversight, the prison had 2,087 prisoners as of Sept. 30 of this year. Inmates in prison do not need to publicly register sex-related crimes until they are released from prison, and even then only if required as a condition of their parole.

So, that leaves Crescent City with a population of about 4,700 if not including the prison, with 41 of those being registered sex offenders, or .87% of the population. That’s below the previously stated 1.3% - which included the 95531 area code and the prison population.

Furthermore, Griffin said that the “real number” is likely 35 to 36, “because there is a couple that is deceased and it takes a while to get them out of the system,” he said.

Griffin further added that the CCPD has been working hard to deal with sex offenders.

“I’ve got an officer right now arresting a grandpa for molesting two kids,” said Griffin. “That investigation took several weeks.”