



From the Desk of Mayor Allan Fung

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Cranston, RI – Mayor Fung today expressed great concern over the placement of sex offenders at Harrington Hall. The Mayor became aware late last week that a change in State legislation meant that sex offenders with no home could no longer be released to a location in Providence and instead are being housed at Harrington Hall in Cranston – a homeless shelter operated by the Urban League for the State.

“I am floored by the lack of foresight in placing these offenders in a facility directly across from a neighborhood ball field,” said Fung. He added, “Asking a neighborhood to accept the fact that a sex offender lives in a nearby house is difficult enough, but to expect a community to accept that groups of offenders are being housed overnight across the street from them and, even worse, that these people are put out on the street during the day is completely unacceptable.”

The Mayor also indicated that the State is putting a cost on the taxpayers of Cranston. “Beyond the obvious safety concern is the fiscal impact of this as well,” said Fung. The community in which an offender resides is responsible for the notification at the City’s expense. Consequently, Cranston will pay for each notification when an offender is placed at Harrington Hall.

Mayor Fung indicated that he has taken immediate short-term action with an increase in police efforts in the community. “Our patrol division is well briefed on the matter and will be actively patrolling the area of Brayton Park field and the Glen Hills neighborhood,” he said. He added, “This is a short term fix, only, however. My staff is meeting this week with the Department of Corrections, and I am in contact with the Governor’s office as this practice is unacceptable for the people of Cranston.”