Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

141 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364
Tel: (928) 783-4427 • Fax: (928) 539-7837
www.yumacountysheriff.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tania Pavlak
Phone: (928) 783-4427
DR# NA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2023 – 12:45 PM

Level 2 Sex Offender Notification

Joel Mercado Torrez

New Address: 12555 East 48th Drive – Yuma, AZ 85367

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) is releasing the following information pursuant to A.R.S. 13-3825, the Community Notification on Sex Offenders Law. The offender in this publication is living within Yuma County. It is the responsibility of the Chief Law Enforcement Office having jurisdiction where the offender resides to make notification to the community. Notification must be made when certain sex offenders are released from the Arizona State Prison, accepted under an interstate compact or released from the county jail back into the community. Offenders are categorized into three levels: Level One (low risk to the community), Level Two (intermediate risk to the community), and Level Three (high risk to the community).

Joel M. Torrez

Height:	5'7"
Weight:	190 lbs
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown

The individual who appears on this notification, **Joel Mercado Torrez**, 62, has been convicted of a sex offense that allows for community notification. Joel M. Torrez has advised the YCSO that he is residing at 12555 East 48th Drive in Yuma, Arizona. He is described as 5 feet, 7 inches tall, 190 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He is not wanted by the Yuma County Sheriff's Office at this time.

On March 11, 1997, Torrez entered a plea of nolo contendere in two separate cases in the Torrance Municipal Court in Redondo Beach, California to five counts of Indecent Exposure, seven counts of Annoy/Molest Children, and five counts of Disorderly Conduct: Solicit Lew Acts. He was sentenced to 120 days in the Los Angeles County Jail, and thirty-six months of probation. His victims were two female juveniles and 1 adult female unknown to him.

Joel Torrez is considered a Level 2 sex offender with an intermediate risk to reoffend.

This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, it is our belief that an informed community is a safer community. The YCSO has no legal authority to direct where a sex offender may or may not live. Unless court ordered restrictions exist, this offender is constitutionally free to live wherever he/she chooses. Citizen abuses of this information to threaten, intimidate, or harass sex offenders will not be tolerated. Sex Offenders have

always lived in our communities; but because of Megan's law, law enforcement is now able to share this information with you.

The YCSO would like to remind the public of the registered sex offender and community notification program OffenderWatch. To register for free email alerts or search for sex offenders in your area, please visit the YCSO OffenderWatch page.

If you have information regarding current criminal activity on this or any other offender, please call the Yuma County Sheriff's Office at (928) 783-4427.

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist