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Community Information Meeting On Housing Of Sex Offenders

Legislator Frank Dart, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature's Criminal Justice and Safety Committee has announced there will be a community information meeting on housing of sex offenders. The public meeting will take place at Kingston City Hall, Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 7 PM.

Participants in the meeting will be, Nancy Schmidt from Probation, Chris Farrell from Mental Health, Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez from Social Services, and Detective Gerry Schatzel from Kingston Police.

Alderwoman Jennifer Ringwood suggested that rather than addressing various neighborhood watch meetings, a city-wide forum be held to inform residents of the status of sex offenders in Kingston. Dart stated that although he and Legislator Jeanette Provenzano have staunchly opposed housing sex offenders in the old Ulster County Jail, he wanted the public to be informed on what Ulster County is presently doing, and what the future might hold.

Chris Farrell will speak on various myths associated with sex offenders. Nancy Schmidt will talk about how Ulster County is managing sex offenders in Ulster County. Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez will speak about the problems he faces as the person responsible for finding housing for sex offenders. Detective Gerry Schatzel will address how the City of Kingston registers sex offenders and how Kingston notifies area schools and keeps track of Kingston's sex offenders. The meeting will inform residents on what restrictions sex offenders may have as far as where they may live and work, and also advise people on what they can do to protect their children.

A question and answer period will follow the presentations.

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