

Urging The Governor And The New York State Legislature To Enact Measures Restricting Convicted Sexual Offenders From Living Near Places Where Children Congregate

The Criminal Justice / Public Safety / STOP DWI Committee (Chairman Meyer and Legislators Aiello, DePew, Every, Dart, Feldmann and Hyatt) and The General Services / Community Services Committee (Chairman Tipp and Legislators Every, Maloney, McAfee, Kraft, Rodriguez and Stoeckeler) offers the following:

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on this Legislative Body to take necessary action, within its power, to ensure that all Ulster County residents and particularly our children, are protected from sexual offenders, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York enacted the Sex Offender Registration Act, effective January 1996, requiring convicted sex offenders, upon their release, to register and report changes of their home address, and permits local police departments to notify schools and other entities with vulnerable populations that those at the greatest risk of re-offending have moved into their communities and to make this information available to the public upon request, and

WHEREAS, in Ulster County as well as across the entire State, there is rising public concern that convicted sexual offenders are, or may be, living adjacent or very near a school, playground or other places where children congregate, and

WHEREAS, a number of states have enacted restrictions barring sex offenders from living within certain distances from schools, childcare facilities or public playgrounds or from homes where children under the age of 18 live.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature respectfully urges the Governor and the New York State Legislature to enact measures that will restrict, in perpetuity, convicted sexual offenders from living near places where children congregate, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

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and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

0801

REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE