

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR LORIGO

Re: Placement of Sex Offenders in a group home

WHEREAS, a recent decision by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities has placed multiple sex offenders in two group homes located at 510 and 526 Leydecker Road in West Seneca; and

WHEREAS, the individuals placed at these group homes were previously placed at a far more secure facility in Monroe County, which was closed due to budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, Leydecker Road and the surrounding area is a residential neighborhood, bordering a well-used West Seneca Town Park and softball fields.

WHEREAS, the group homes were initially acquired for and occupied by individuals with mental disabilities and developmental challenges requiring State supervision and care, which is not a secure environment for medium to high level sex offenders; and

WHEREAS, local residents were not given proper notice regarding the placement of these sex offenders, in that they were lead to believe the homes were to be used for housing developmentally challenged individuals without criminal records; and

WHEREAS, the placement of several level 2 and level 3 sex offenders in a residential neighborhood represents a dangerous situation for area residents, their children, and anyone who utilizes the neighboring park; and

WHEREAS, many of the residents in the area would not have moved their families to that particular neighborhood had they known a group of sex offenders requiring state care would be located there as well; and

WHEREAS, the group homes have a central location to local area schools and parks, which would normally have precluded the location of these individuals had they not been placed in a state run facility; and

WHEREAS, the movement of the previous residents of these two group homes into new surroundings is highly disruptive to their progress and development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature requests that the State of New York review its policy regarding placement of sex offenders, in particular with regard to group homes used to house said offenders requiring continued State care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State review its policy with regard to giving proper notice to neighborhood residents regarding the location and placement of sex offenders, especially when they are placed in large groups like the present situation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo's office, the Western NY delegates to the State Senate and Assembly, Commissioner of the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities Laurie Kelley and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None