



Florida Action Committee (FAC)

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With Unity Comes Change

January 25, 2017

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mayor@ocfl.net

Mayor Teresa Jacobs
201 S Rosalind Ave., 5th Floor
Orlando, FL 32801

RE: SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

Dear Mayor Jacobs,

I am President of the Florida Action Committee, Inc. (FAC). FAC is a not-for-profit public safety advocacy organization. As part of our mission we advocate for the reform of sex offender laws to conform with what decades of research and empirical evidence has proven to be best practices.

Members of our organization have recently brought to our attention that your County is considering passing a Sex Offender Residency Restriction (SORR). Specifically, they referenced a news story on WFTV (<http://www.wftv.com/video?videoId=487614059&videoVersion=1.0>).

The research *overwhelmingly* concludes that SORRs do not work. In fact, they have been proven counter-productive because, among other things, they create housing instability and remove individuals from needed family and support systems - triggers for re-offense.

WFTV mentioned that your County Attorney will be studying the Miami-Dade County SORR and will make recommendations to your Commission. The Miami-Dade SORR famously created the unintended consequence of hundreds of homeless registrants living under the Julia Tuttle Causeway and that problem persists through today, as over 250 homeless registrants are living at a street corner in Miami.

FAC, happens to be one of the Plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Miami-Dade County challenging their SORR. The case (1:14-cv-23933-PCH) was recently reversed (in our favor) by the 11th Circuit and several other jurisdictions have abolished SORRs. We would seek similar relief from an Orange County SORR if one were passed.

Following, please find links to several recent articles and studies on SORRs:

- [No Place to Call Home: Rethinking Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders](#)
- [Hidden challenges: Sex offenders legislated into homelessness](#)
- [Sex Offender Residency Restrictions: Successful Integration or Exclusion?](#)
- [Examining the Correlates of Sex Offender Residence Restriction Violation Rates](#)
- [Sex Offender Residence Restrictions: Unintended Consequences and Community Reentry](#)

We strongly encourage you to read through these and other studies (which are abundantly available online), consult with experts in the field of sex offender management, look at relevant case law and put the responsible level of research and consideration into your decision as to whether to pass a SORR in Orange County.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further or to address the commissioners at your next meeting.

Sincerely,

Gail Colletta, President
gail@floridaactioncommittee.org

cc: WFTV
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