



**Florida Action Committee, Inc.**  
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[www.floridaactioncommittee.org](http://www.floridaactioncommittee.org)

November 2, 2017

Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County  
Stephen P. Clark Government Center  
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 220  
Miami, Florida 33128

Attn: Commissioner District 1, Barbara J. Jordan	Sent via Email: District1@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 2, Jean Monestime	Sent via Email: District2@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 3, Audrey M. Edmonson	Sent via Email: District3@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 4, Sally A. Heyman	Sent via Email: District4@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 5, Bruno A. Barreiro	Sent via Email: District5@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 6, Rebeca Sosa	Sent via Email: District6@MiamiDade.gov
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Commissioner District 10, Javier D. Souto	Sent via Email: District10@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 11, Joe A. Martinez	Sent via Email: District11@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 12, Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Sent via Email: District12@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 13, Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Sent via Email: District13@MiamiDade.gov

**RE: HOMELESS SEX OFFENDERS**

Dear Commissioners:

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, this organization wrote to you concerning the homeless encampment on NW 71<sup>st</sup> Street and 36<sup>th</sup> Court in Miami.

To remind you; The Florida Action Committee (FAC) is a not-for-profit public safety advocacy organization. Our concern is both for the individuals who were legislated into homelessness and forced to live there, as well as the community in those areas in which they are clustered.

It appears that in response to the recent negative press that the location has received, the County has proposed a solution: To arrest these individuals.

At next week's Board of County Commissioners meeting you will discuss Agenda Item 4(a) – an amendment to Section 21-286 of the County Code governing overnight camping on public property. The proposed amendment seeks to eliminate a safeguard against arrest as it is applied to registered individuals; that the "Homeless person" shall first be offered an opportunity to go to a homeless shelter.

As the preamble to the Bill states, *“the requirement to offer homeless persons violating the prohibition an opportunity to go to a homeless shelter has proven unworkable, unduly burdensome on law enforcement, and has rendered the prohibition meaningless when the homeless person is a sexual predator, sexual offender or is otherwise ineligible to stay at homeless shelters.”*

These individuals are stuck between a rock and a hard place. Either they stay in the area and risk arrest for violating 21-286, or they leave and risk arrest for violating the County's SORR.

It is important to remember that these individuals are not congregating at the railroad tracks in a warehouse district because they *want* to be there. They are there because they are legislated into homelessness by the County's Sex Offender Residency Restriction (SORR). Some were even directed there by their probation officers because there is no-place else for them to go.

Naturally, we implore you to vote against this amendment, but more importantly, to do the right thing and solve the underlying problem. Repeal the SORR ordinance!

Sincerely,

s/

Gail Colletta, President

The Florida Action Committee, Inc.