



Florida Action Committee, Inc.
P.O. Box 470932
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-0932
www.floridaactioncommittee.org

April 2, 2018

Jackson County
Board of County Commissioners
2864 Madison Street
Marianna, Florida 32448

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express our organization's strong opposition to your proposed expansion of the sex offender residency restriction (SORR) in Jackson County, Florida.

The Florida Action Committee is a not-for-profit, public safety advocacy organization. Our membership is comprised of over eight hundred, members, including registrants, their families, treatment professionals and other stake-holders. Our mission is to end the cycle of sexual violence and make our communities safer.

Contrary to the assertions of Sergeant Quinton Hollis, SORRs do not make the community safer. All empirical studies on the subject prove the contrary. SORRs increase recidivism by decreasing offender's housing stability, access to family and treatment. SORRs come with numerous unintended consequences, such as encampments of homeless registrants¹ and an increase in absconding. Completely illogically; SORRs only impact where registrants sleep at night, when schools are closed and children are at home, sleeping.

SORRs have also been found to be unconstitutional. Last month, the City of Ft. Lauderdale's SORR was found to be facially unconstitutional (City of Ft Lauderdale vs. Anderson, Ira J, Case No. 17-003615MO10A) and a similar challenge is currently being litigated against Miami-Dade County in the Southern District of Florida (Doe, et al. v. Miami-Dade County, et al., 846 F.3d 1180 (2017)). Palm Beach County, after appointing a task force to investigate its sex offender management scheme, elected to repeal its 2500-foot SORR and revert to the State's 1000 foot law. There has been no negative effect.

¹ Levenson JS, Ackerman AR, Socia KM, Harris AJ. Where for art thou? Transient sex offenders and residence restrictions. *Crim Justice Policy Rev.* 2015;26(4):319-44.

Simply put; restricting where sex offenders sleep at night does not enhance public safety. It does more harm than good, creates unintended consequences and exposes your county to potential litigation.

We implore you to consult with experts, study the vast current research on the subject (which we will be happy to provide you with) and re-consider your proposal to modify your county's residency restrictions.

Sincerely,

s/

Gail Colletta, President
The Florida Action Committee, Inc.
561-305-4959
gail@floridaactioncommittee.org

CC: Commissioner Clint Pate VIA EMAIL cpate@jacksoncountyfl.com
Commissioner Chuck Lockey VIA EMAIL c_lockey@jacksoncountyfl.com
Commissioner Eric Hill VIA EMAIL ehill@jacksoncountyfl.com
Commissioner Jim Peacock VIA EMAIL jpeacock@jacksoncountyfl.com
Wayne T. Price, Florida Today VIA EMAIL wprice@floridatoday.com
Sheila Mader, Jackson County Times VIA EMAIL jpeacock@jacksoncountyfl.com
Editor, Jackson County Floridian VIA EMAIL editorial@jcfloiridan.com