



TOWN OF WEST SENECA

SHEILA M. MEEGAN
TOWN SUPERVISOR

To: Fellow Town Board
From: Sheila M. Meegan, Town Supervisor
Date April 7, 2014
Re: Adoption of Resolution in regards to Placement of Sex Offenders in Group Home

Kindly adopt the attached resolution in regards to the placement of sex offenders in a group home. The resolution is requesting the State of New York to review its policy regarding placement of sex offenders, in particular with regard to group homes used to house said offenders requiring State care and also requesting the New York State reviews its policy with regard to giving proper notice to neighborhood residents and School district regarding the location and placement of sex offenders, especially when they are placed in large groups like the present situation.

I strongly encourage the placement of all such sex offenders into Bldg #29 on State owned property as opposed to placing such individuals on the perimeter of said property. I would encourage our governor to walk with me and see the effects of a decision made by those whom I can only assume have very little understanding of the impact of such placement on the families in our town or any town for that matter.

Government needs to work together for the betterment and safety of the people.

I would ask that if he cannot make time in his very demanding schedule that he reach out to our Hon. State Senator Patrick Gallivan and or his Chief of staff Mitch Martin.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the great town of West Seneca, in the county of Erie and the State of New York.

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
TOWN SUPERVISOR MEEGAN**

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 led 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 the 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 Town of West Seneca 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 copy 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.