

Comments for Public Forum – Englewood
2-21-17

Safety of the public cannot be ensured. Anyone who tells you that it can is not being truthful. However, public safety can be enhanced by ensuring that those who have committed felonies and other offenses, including sexual offenses, have housing, jobs and strong support from family, friends and neighbors.

The approximately 100 people on the registry living in Englewood right now and for the last few years have lived here with the benefit of a house, supportive people in their lives, and sex offense free! The only sexual crime committed within the last few years inside Englewood was committed by someone who came in from another municipality to commit the offense. We do not need more time, as suggested by a couple of council members, to accept the overwhelming research evidence stating that residency restrictions do NOT protect children or anyone else.

Council has been given over 50 research publications and many news articles stating that it is much more dangerous for registered citizens to be moved out of their homes, to lose their jobs or be consistently turned down for jobs, and to be separated from their families, friends and neighbors. Being driven underground by frightened and well-meaning people such as the people of Englewood for no valid reason means that those who have offended are hard if not impossible to find, and may steal, burglarize etc. to survive. This makes it harder for Englewood Police to find them – if they have an address and are registered, the police and everyone else know where they are!

Because someone committed a previous sexual offense does not mean they will commit another one. 20% of people committing this offense have been caught and convicted. A very small percentage of them will re-offend. 80%, according to victims' advocate numbers, are offending in your neighborhoods, i.e. police, sheriff's deputies, coaches, teachers, preachers, priests, judges etc., and may never be caught. Serious educational efforts are the only way to stop this ongoing offense! Join with me to discontinue residency restrictions and launch a concerted effort at in-depth education for all age groups! 1,000 foot restrictions are just as useless as 2,000 foot restrictions!