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Residents invited to sign online petition to support legislation giving municipalities authority to establish residency restrictions for registered sex offenders

~Legislation would pave the way for Penfield Child Safety Act~

PENFIELD, N.Y., MAY 31, 2017 – The Town of Penfield has created an online petition at www.penfield.org for residents who wish to express support for proposed state legislation that would restore authority to municipalities to establish stricter residency restrictions for registered sex offenders.

Earlier this month, Senator Funke announced the New York State Senate passed S.2178, his bill to restore local control over residency restrictions of sex offenders and better protect children. Now, Assemblyman Mark Johns is sponsoring the legislation in the New York State Assembly as bill A7718. The final step in the process is securing the governor’s signature.

“Resident input in support of this legislation will play an important role in facilitating deliberation discussions within the Assembly and the Governor’s Office. It will also assist the Penfield Town Board in its discussions to enact the Penfield Child Safety Act,” said Supervisor LaFountain. “I am thankful for Senator Funke’s ongoing efforts to support Penfield and all New York state communities with his bill that explicitly gives municipalities the authority to enact local laws establishing residency restrictions for sex offenders. Now it’s critical that the
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Assembly approve this legislation. We thank Assemblyman Mark Johns for sponsoring the proposal. Once the legislation has made its way through the governor’s office the Penfield Town Board can move forward in adopting the Penfield Child Safety Act that has been on the table since March 2015.”

The Penfield Child Safety Act, a proposed local law that was tabled after a 2015 New York court of appeals ruling that denied local control, would prohibit the residency of registered Level Two and Level Three sex offenders within designated Child Safe Zones, or 2,000 feet from any schools, parks, playgrounds, town facilities, or daycare centers. The legislation was proposed, in part, due to the discovery in 2015 that a Level Three sex offender had established residency less than 200 feet from Penfield’s Veterans Memorial Park, home to the town’s Little League and other sports fields.

All who wish to show support for this legislation in Albany are invited to sign the petition at www.penfield.org (‘Petition - Child Safety Act’ in ‘Quick Link’ column). All signatures collected by the Town of Penfield will be forwarded to Assemblyman Mark Johns and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

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