

# Titus House Newsletter

Titus House Ministries, PO Box 2376, Tijeras, NM 87059

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## 'It will also prevent this from happening again.' Neighbors, including local prosecutor, sought park to displace sex offender

FORT MITCHELL, Ky. – In a neighborhood of broad lawns and trees, residents wanted one of their neighbors to leave – and they seized on an unusual way to try and get the city's help to force him out.

The drama involved a local prosecutor, a sex offender, and a tiny sliver of land along Dixie Highway with a handful of benches and a doggy bag dispenser.

In the spring, a registered sex offender moved in next door to Kyle Burns, who also happened to be an assistant Commonwealth attorney for Campbell County.

Burns had an idea: Get the Fort Mitchell Park Board to put a playground in that space. That playground would change everything for everyone; It would be publicly owned – and would force the offender to move.

In messages obtained by The Enquirer, residents discuss how the pocket park would displace their neighbor, a registered sex offender. (Photo: Provided | The Enquirer)

Kentucky law specifies that sex offenders can't live within 1,000 feet of a publicly owned playground. The sex offender would have to move within 90 days.

Burns promoted the idea with his neighbors in Facebook messages obtained by The Enquirer.

In early September Burns



got a meeting with the park board to talk about why the city's first so-called "pocket park" should go in his neighborhood, according to records obtained under a Kentucky Open Records Act request.

"I have talked to multiple city officials about converting Pauly Park (green space at the front of the neighborhood) into a playground, and they seem interested," Burns wrote to the group on Facebook messenger. "Not only would it give our kids something to walk to (once this guy is gone that is) but it will also prevent this from happening again."

Burns declined to comment on the park or the Facebook messages when The Enquirer reached out to him.

Where can sex offenders live?

When the offender was 24, he was charged for third-degree sodomy with a 15-year-old. After violating probation, he spent five years in prison; he must

register as a sex offender for 20 years.

The Enquirer could not reach the offender for comment.

Advocates for sex offender civil rights say laws specifying distance limits – from schools, parks, and so on – are sometimes abused. The Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws (ACSOL), a California-based group, said pocket parks "effectively keep registrants out of neighborhoods and sometimes entire towns."

"They also break up families," the group's executive director Janice Bellucci told The Enquirer in an email.

"For example, a family may own or rent a home that a registrant is no longer able to live in due to creation of (a) pocket park. The family can't afford to rent or buy a second home and therefore registrant becomes homeless often living in his or her car."

It doesn't seem that Burns

mentioned his neighbor during his meeting with the park board. Instead, he talked about how the playground could be good for local businesses, a way to get neighbors to spend more time together, and would "serve a purpose," according to public meeting documents.

Facebook messages about the pocket park obtained by The Enquirer.

Residents would pay for the playground, Burns told the board, up to \$50,000.

If the playground wasn't publicly owned, Burns' neighbor could stay in the Kenton County neighborhood.

Those meeting notes don't explicitly say the playground would force the offender to move, or even mention the offender, but the Facebook messages do.

"He would have 90 days to move but hopefully he is gone soon," Burns wrote to his neighbors who had questions about the logistics of the pocket park. "But it would prevent us from ever being in this position again."

**By: Julia Fair, Cincinnati Enquirer**



## That has to be all

By Sandy . . . “That just has to be all.” One of NARSOL’s board members is fond of saying that when something has occurred that seems outlandish or over the top. What he means, of course, is this is as ridiculous as it gets; nothing can top this.

And then a week later, he will say it again because something even more outlandish and over the top has occurred. I have lost count of the number of times something has been declared to be “all” only to be replaced by something even more “all” in a month or a week — or a day.

But this time I am saying it, and this time, it really does have to be all.

The headline says, “5-year-old autistic boy ‘put on record as sex offender’ by school for hugging classmate and kissing another on the cheek.” Initially, knowing the media’s propensity for hyperbole, especially when the term “sex offender” can be used, I assumed there was more to the story. Surely he had an older accomplice who was running the show. Surely he held a gun to someone and forced them to disrobe. Surely . . . But then my “get real” side



told my Pollyanna side to stop the nonsense, that there was nothing a five-year-old could do, especially an autistic five-year-old, that would justify using the term “sex offender” in describing him.

And there doesn’t seem to be more to the story. Apparently, unlike many autistic children who don’t want to be touched, he is a hugger. He feels and shows affection. He hugged one classmate and kissed another on the cheek. Classmates. Other five-year-olds.

In what obscene, perverse world are these actions by any five-year-old determined to have a sexual motivation? In what sick, twisted world would a teacher of five-year-olds, someone hopefully trained in early childhood education, someone who hopefully understands the

impulsiveness of five-year-olds and the total lack of sexual predation in five-year-olds, feel compelled to notify school authorities, who then notified child services — child services!

And then my “get real” side totally took over and kicked Pollyanna’s butt out the door.

Oh yeah. The world that created sexual offense registries and put them out for all to see. The world that decided that young teenagers should be charged with child pornography for taking videos of their own naked selves. The world that decided that it was right, fitting, and proper for a teenager to be put on a sex offender registry for reciprocal sex with his teenage girlfriend and then kept on it until he died even though they married, had children, and raised their family together.

Oh yeah. That world.

## LA: LOUISIANA SHERIFFS PROMOTING NEW APP THAT ALERTS PARENTS IF SEX OFFENDERS CONTACT CHILDREN

Louisiana sheriffs are backing a new mobile app that will alert parents if a registered sex offender contacts their child.

The app, Safe Virtual Neighborhood, is the newest development from Offender-Watch and parent company Watch Systems, a Covington-based company known for tracking sex offenders. Watch Systems and Louisiana’s law enforcement community have worked together since 2000, when the company launched its sex offender registry system.

The Safe Virtual Neighborhood app utilizes existing information collected in

law enforcement offender databases and applies it to people’s personal mobile devices. To use it, parents can purchase the app for \$9.99 from either the Android or Apple app stores.

The app will alert parents if the child is contacted by a phone number or email address belonging to someone on the sex offender registry. It can also track a user’s location and alert a parent if a child lingers near the address of a registered sex offender for an extended period, Cormaci said.





## Halloween Lawsuits & Cop Watch Hotline

Have you had enough hearing about the imaginary boogeyman who snatches children on Halloween? NARSOL has and it will be co-hosting the third annual Halloween Marathon-Cop Watch Hotline with ACSOL. To add to this year's festivities, we will be updating everyone on the two lawsuits that have been filed in Georgia.

As we have done in the past, the Halloween Marathon will take live phone calls from those experiencing hardships related to Halloween.

NARSOL's communications director, Sandy Rozek, explained in a press release, "Despite the fact that we are unable to find a single incident of a registered sex offender assaulting or abducting a child on Halloween, local governments and media continue to fan flames of fear and hysteria by singling out people on the sex offender registry for intrusive scrutiny, draconian restrictions, and possible harassment or violence on Halloween. To ensure that the constitutional rights of law-abiding registered people are respected, we've organized a team of attorneys who will be available during a live conference call on Halloween to respond to questions and to take reports of abusive actions against registrants and their families."

In cooperation with the law



firm of Mark Yurachek, NARSOL has filed legal action against the sheriffs' offices in two Georgia counties to try and put the brakes on this craziness. The lawsuits were filed in the hope of preempting the two sheriffs from repeating what they had done in 2018. One lawsuit was filed in the Middle District of Georgia and the other in the Northern District. In the week prior to Halloween, 2018, Butts County Sheriff Gary Long and Spalding County Sheriff Darrell Dix barged onto properties and demanded the persons in each of their counties erect large colorful signs on their property or their homes informing the public that they were registered sexual offenders and warning trick-or-treaters to stay away from the residences.

Affected registrants in both counties, upon lodging complaints and protests, were told that if they did not comply or if they removed the signs that they would be arrested and jailed, according to the law-

suits filed in the United States District Court. Despite these repercussions, Spalding County claims the sign placement is "voluntary."

"There is nothing in the Georgia legal statutes," said NARSOL's E.D. Brenda Jones, "that authorizes or allows law enforcement to do this. It is illegal for several reasons."

While some jurisdictions in Georgia have established ordinances affecting registrants during Halloween, Georgia state law does not address the issue in its statutes, and NARSOL and Attorney Yurachek are adamant that nothing in the laws of either Butts or Spalding Counties authorize law enforcement to require compelled speech in the form of signage at the residences of its registered citizens. Spalding County concedes in their response that there is no statute requiring their display. After we filed the lawsuit, Spalding County has stated it will not display them this year, but the Butts County Sheriff claims he will "fight this all the way to the Supreme Court."

We will be providing updates on this developing legal action as it progresses.





## Titus House Ministries

PO Box 2376  
Tijeras, NM 87059

Phone: (505) 286-8807  
Alice's Cell (505) 259-0867  
Don's Cell: (505) 315-7940  
Email: donmagicjohnston@gmail.com

We're on the Web  
[titushouseministries.org](http://titushouseministries.org)

Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter



## December Christmas Party

Time is flying by. We know that because we are suddenly wearing sweaters, long pants and those of us in the East Mountains are shivering at below freezing temps. That means of course that our yearly fun party is right around the corner. We always have it on the Saturday before Christmas and this year it will be December 21<sup>st</sup> from about noon to 3:00 and again at Furrs Cafeteria on .Wyoming, south of Menaul. If you would like to help us with music, skits or other performances please let me know as soon as possible. As you may recall, Titus House pays the bill, you get a great meal, the fellowship is unforgettable and anyone, no matter the age is welcome. Children are welcome as long as they are accompanied by a parent. We need to know who is coming by early December if possible. If you want to share music or other talents please let me know as soon as possible! Five minute speeches on your favorite subject will also be encouraged. Tell your boss this a must and if you have to, bring him or her along.



Thanksgiving is not about getting a paid holiday. It is not about the food. It is not even about being with family and friends. It is an attitude of a thankful heart. A conscious thought of remembrance of the blessings that have been given us by our gracious Heavenly Father and His Son!



## Circle of Concern

Circle of Concern is aimed at breaking down isolation and fear by providing a safe place for registrants and their loved ones to get together, build community, and learn ways to step out and take charge of their lives and overcome the stigma

they face. The Circle of Concern is a group of concerned registered citizens, family and friends that meet together on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on November 17, 2019 at 4 pm—6 pm. We will be having a potluck. We meet at Foothills Fel-



lowship Church, corner of Tramway and Candelaria on the far east side of Albuquerque. We encourage and try to help each other. It is a safe place to share our strengths and struggles. We hope you will join us. If you are planning to attend call Don at (505) 315-7940.