



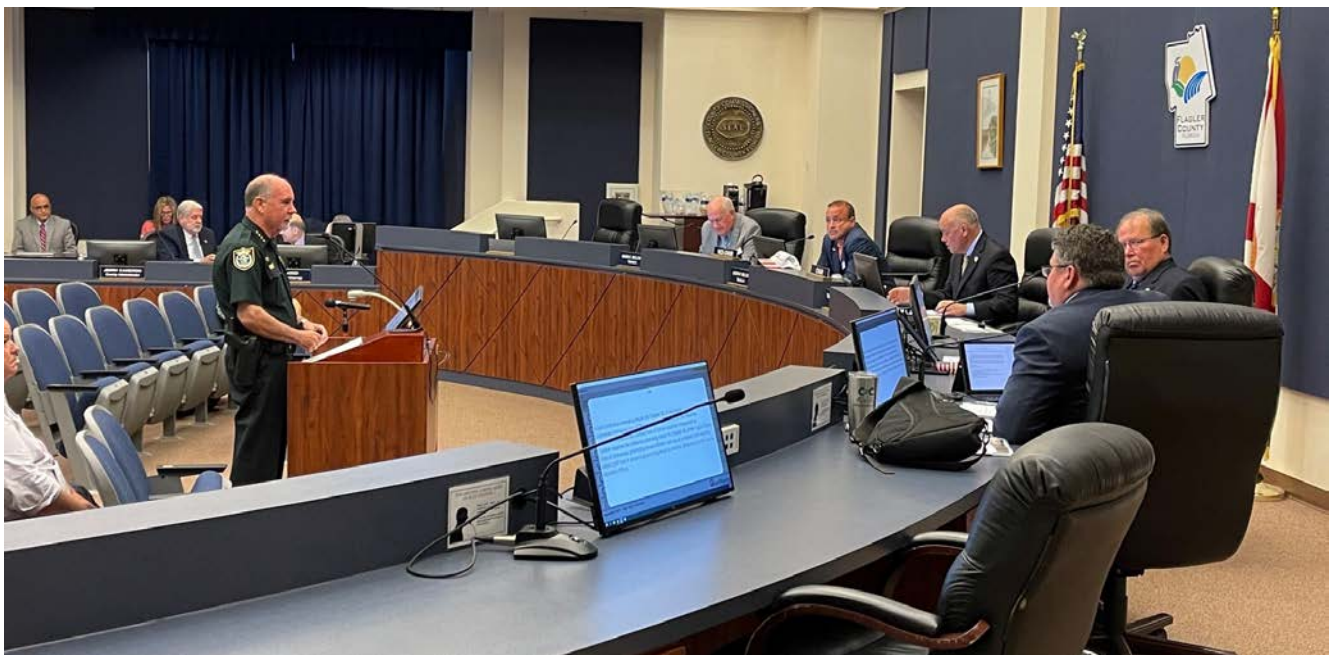
Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Staly Urges for Stronger Restrictions for Sex Offenders and Predators Living in Flagler County

On Monday, Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly attended the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners Meeting to discuss deficiencies he found in local ordinance 20-377, adopted in 2005, which governs where certain sex offenders and predators may live in Flagler County.



Sheriff Staly speaking during the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners Meeting

Flagler County Ordinance 20-377 had prohibited sex offenders and predators from establishing a permanent residence within 1,000 feet of certain places where children are commonly found. This includes schools, daycares, public parks, and playgrounds.

Sheriff Staly had written a letter on April 12, 2021 to County Chairman Donald O'Brien requesting

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modifications to the ordinance be made, pointing out the current ordinance left out several other important locations where children congregate like private recreational spaces and facilities, libraries, churches, and school bus stops. Sheriff Staly spoke during the Board of County Commissioners Meeting addressing the need for the updated ordinance.

“It is a sacred duty to protect the children living and visiting Flagler County,” Sheriff Rick Staly said during the meeting. “1,000 feet is the minimum distance allowed by law, I encourage the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners to do more than the minimum to keep our children safe and to amend the ordinances to prohibit sex offenders and predators from establishing a residence in additional locations frequented by our children that are not currently covered.”

Sheriff Staly drew comparisons to the City of Palm Coast’s ordinance 35-253 which requires sex offenders and predators to live a minimum of 2,500 feet away from schools, daycares, public parks, and playgrounds. While Sheriff Staly expressed the increased distance was a move in the right direction, the ordinance similarly fails to include private recreational spaces and facilities, libraries, churches, and school bus stops as prohibited locations. Sheriff Staly has also asked the City of Palm Coast to amend their ordinance to match the County’s and add the additional prohibitions.

Currently, there are 124 Sex Offenders and 3 Predators living within Flagler County.

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