Post Office Box 36123 Albuquerque, NM 87176 narsol.org



Post Office Box 25423 Raleigh, NC 27611 888.997.7765

NARSOL Condemns Vigilante Justice in Oklahoma

Police department's Facebook page incites mob rule and vigilantism

Raleigh, North Carolina | **July 10, 2020**— The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (<u>NARSOL</u>) protests in the strongest possible terms the recent actions of the Oklahoma City Police Dept. Its <u>Facebook page features</u> the pictures of people on the sex offense registry who are out-of-compliance and offers cash for information leading to their apprehension. NARSOL demands that this post be taken down.

"This is unconscionable," says NARSOL's communication director Sandy Rozek. "Law enforcement is sworn to protect all citizens, not just those it likes. Instead, the Oklahoma City Police are conducting a campaign of hate, appealing to mob mentality at its worst, and providing a platform for vigilantism to flourish."

The comments offered in response to the actions of the police department verify that it is being taken in the spirit with which it was meant – one of inciting vigilantism.

"Nail em to center post as ya set hay on fire," writes Raymond West.

"I wish someone would just take these pieces of waste down a dark alley and just end them," is Robert Cypert's offering.

Brandon Farnsworth replies, "It's time for some target practice."

More than one asked if the price offered was for "dead or alive."

"We are not saying these individuals are innocent of failure to register, as it's defined by Oklahoma law," Rozek continued, "and we are not saying that law enforcement should not charge individuals who break the law. What we are saying is that doing it in such a way that encourages, even solicits, an outpouring of hate, vengeance, and vigilantism does not contribute to an orderly society and furtherance of public safety but rather works against those important goals."

Lori Hamilton, leader of the advocacy group Oklahoma Voices, makes clear that none of the individuals targeted are charged with any new sexual crimes, although the actions of the Oklahoma City police encouraged media to do some inventive journalism and made claims that they are wanted for their original crimes.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS

Fighting to restore dignity & constitutional rights to millions. NARSOL is a 501(c)(4) for IRS purposes. Contributions made to NARSOL are NOT tax deductible. Vivante Espero is a 501(c)(3) for IRS purposes. Contributions made to Vivante ARE tax deductible. "Six of the 10 are wanted for sexual acts with a child, one for attempted rape, a couple others for rape convictions, and one for sexual battery," <u>erroneously reports KOCO channel 5 news.</u>

"KOCO should have stated that six of the ten are required to register for those offenses," said Rozek. "The people being targeted by OKC police may have paid their debt in full already, and it's NARSOL's position that a registration obligation should not be required after a person has completed the period of incarceration and supervision imposed by the court."

NARSOL and its state advocacy organizations exist to assure that those with sexual crime convictions and the resulting post-punishment assignment to a sexual offense registry are dealt with according to law and policies based on research, basic human decency and what fosters an orderly, civilized society.

There is nothing about putting a bounty on someone's head and encouraging the worst of speculation and making the individuals the targets of hate and vigilante activity that is even in the same room with research findings, human decency, or a civilized society.

NARSOL is demanding the immediate removal of this Facebook post of the Oklahoma City Police Department.

#

NARSOL is the nation's largest civil rights organization advocating on behalf of registered citizens and their families. NARSOL opposes dehumanizing registries and works to eliminate discrimination, banishment, and vigilantism against persons accused or convicted of sexual offenses through the use of impact litigation, public education, legislative advocacy, and media outreach in order to reintegrate and reconcile affected individuals and restore their constitutional rights.