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### **CERETTO QUESTIONS SEX OFFENDER PLACEMENT**

New York State Assembly candidate John Ceretto today questioned the efforts of incumbent 138<sup>th</sup> Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte to address the ever-increasing number of sex offenders being placed by the state in the City of Niagara Falls.

There are currently 178 registered sex offenders, including 48 active Level Three offenders, residing in the City of Niagara Falls. The state defines Level Three offenders as a “high risk of repeat offense and a threat to public safety exists”.

“The fact of the matter is that the State of New York is using the City of Niagara Falls as a dumping ground for the most dangerous of criminals in our society, those who prey on the children of our community,” said Ceretto. “Meanwhile, Francine DelMonte, while claiming to be concerned with this disturbing trend, has done nothing to curb the influx of sex offenders into the city.”

Ceretto pointed to the fact that although New York State Senate had passed a version of civil confinement legislation in 2007, it was a significantly watered-down version of what had previously been proposed.

“In a distorted attempt to cover for herself, Francine DelMonte continuously tells the people of this community that she supported civil confinement of sexual predators,” stated Ceretto. “What she neglects to disclose is the fact that the version that she ultimately voted for was a bill that was sponsored by her master, Sheldon Silver. And that bill, as we know from the alarming number of sex offenders in Niagara Falls, has done absolutely nothing to keep these offenders out of our neighborhoods and away from our children.”

Ceretto vowed to bring more attention to this issue, and if elected, to bring substantive legislation to address the disproportionate number of sex offenders in the city.

“The bottom line is that Niagara Falls is once again getting the short end of the stick,” said Ceretto. “I don’t know what it’s going to take to get Francine DelMonte to understand the severity of this situation. If God forbid one of these animals should attack again, I don’t know how she could live with herself knowing how little she’s done to address this situation.”

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