

Fear Tactics

Dear *Alibi*,

To Mayor Chavez: I sit by week after week watching the witch hunt on David Siebers and feel I must let you know how I feel. First of all, I am a licensed clinical social worker in New Mexico and have worked with sex offenders for over 20 years. I am also a parent and grandparent, so I can see all sides of this situation.

It appears to me that Mr. Siebers has become the embodiment of our community's fears. He has become the bogeyman of Albuquerque.

Mr. Siebers is not the only registered sex offender in this community. There are registered sex offenders in almost every neighborhood in this city. Why are you targeting him? Following around this one man is ridiculous and a waste of police power, which I, personally, would like to see protecting me from those who are dangerous at this moment.

He completed his time in prison. Has he had treatment? Has he offended within the last ten years? Has he been given the opportunity to prove what his risk factor is? The assumption that a) all sex offenders are the same and b) they will always offend is erroneous. Sex offending is a continuum and occurs for many different reasons. Lumping everyone together is much like the profiling that occurs for people of different races, sexual orientation or gender.

Does anyone have the ability to change and/or improve with treatment? Does a person have the right to demonstrate he or she can change? You have convicted him of a wrongdoing he has not done. As far as I can see, he is quietly and respectfully trying to live his life. You cannot condemn or convict a man for something he *might* do.

And, most importantly, you are giving the community a false sense of safety by focusing on this man. The truth about sex offending is that the perpetrator is rarely the scary bogeyman in the community, but rather a friend or family member.

It is time to stop the mercenary mentality that pervades this nation and, on a smaller level, our community. The fear you are instilling in this community is reprehensible.

*(Ms) Chris Landis, ACSW, LISW, DABFSW, CCJS
MAC, Executive Director
Albuquerque*