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60th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial
By: Tom Wiknich

Should Kate’s Law be passed?

First, some comments about the last editorial titled: Are you ready to have chickens in your neighbor’s yard? This one generated quite a bit of discussion on the blogs. A quick summary is that the planning commission is taking up the topic about allowing chickens in residential zones of the city. There were so many comments, both pro and con, that I’ll just do a quick summary. Suzy wrote, “No, chickens do not belong in the city.” Gail wrote, “So it's ok to have 2 if you can't take care of them?” Brian said, “Yes. Love the idea! I can have fresh eggs again.” Larry added, “I'm not in favor of chickens on a 6000 sq. Ft. Lot. Chickens don't belong in a city. If you want chickens, move out into the county.” Wally wrote,
“Often I don’t agree with Tom - but he's spot on. No more animals. This is a city.” Mary wrote, “Let the neighbors have chickens.” Scott said, “Well, I wouldn't keep a chicken coop, myself, but it wouldn't bother me if the neighbors wanted a couple chickens if they kept things clean.” Gary said, “People can't control their dogs and cats...now we'll have chickens running the streets? Bring more coyotes into town. Let's leave well enough alone.” A close by Ken, “I got a barrel of flour, Lord, I got a bucket of lard. I ain't got no blues, I got chickens in my back yard.” It seemed many pro comments had to do with wanting to have fresh eggs, or to save money on eggs. The no comments centered on noise and health concerns, including the fear of these animals being a draw for bobcats and coyotes coming into back yards. Animal control has confirmed that this has happened before, and will happen again, resulting in neighbors now being afraid to let their dogs and cats out in their yards at night. I stand by my position. I’m against allowing chickens in residential neighborhoods. The city does not need another problem. Allowing chickens will bring in a large problem for animal control and code enforcement. I guarantee, while some may follow the code, many will not, and then we start all the city effort to correct the problem. The neighbors will be stripped of their right to peaceful enjoyment of their own yards due to noise and smell of fowl next door, and fear of possible attacks on their own pets in their own yards.

Now on to today’s editorial topic: Should Kate’s law be passed? As I reported earlier in today’s news, it is a law started by Bill O’Reilly of Fox News. In the aftermath of the senseless killing of Kate Steinle by an illegal alien felon, who had been previously deported five times, O’Reilly has started a movement to pass “Kate’s Law”. This law would require any illegal alien felon that had been previously deported, and reenters into the U.S. illegally, and gets caught, to be sentenced to a minimum of five years in jail, and again be deported when released. For additional illegal crossings, the sentence would go up. O’Reilly has started an internet petition to allow supporters to sign it. He will then forward the petition to Congress. Last night, O’Reilly reported the petition already had over 600,000 signatures.

As can be expected, the people against it are trying to turn it into a race issue against Mexicans. Their argument is that these are mostly good people just trying to improve their lives. But it has to be clear, this is not against Mexicans. It’s not about good people. It’s about any felon that enters the U.S. illegally. It’s about bad criminals entering our country illegally. Any race, any color, any whatever. We have a right to be protected against criminals. Congress and the President are constitutionally required to provide for our defense from enemies, foreign and domestic. They took an oath of office to do just that. Our state representatives took the same oath. They need to do their job. There is nothing in our constitution that says we have to let felons into our country. There is no law that allows illegal border crossings. We are a country of laws. For those that choose to break our laws, then there are consequences to that illegal action. It’s called prison. Kate’s Law provides a new means to discourage bad people from coming back into our country. It provides mandatory jail time for these repeat bad criminals. Call them what they are: these people the law targets are bad criminals that intend to hurt law abiding citizens. If someone wants to argue mandatory jail time is too harsh. What about the harshness they inflicted onto their victim. Remember, a felony is not just a crime like shoplifting, and basic crimes. It’s not about misdemeanor crimes. It’s not about Mexicans. It’s about felons. It’s about bad people. It’s about murders, assaults, weapons crimes, rapists, gang bosses, home invasions with guns, robberies, and all the other felonies. Let’s get off this sentiment it’s about Mexicans. It’s about illegal alien felons that cross our border illegally to get to us in our country. Hey, stay in your own country and hurt your own people there. We don’t need it here.

In conclusion, the government has a duty to do all they can to protect us from criminals.

Kate’s Law is a good step in that effort. Hey congress, hey Mr. President, it’s your constitutional responsibility. You took an oath of office to provide for our defense from enemies, foreign and domestic. Pass this law.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.