



New York State
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Niagara Gazette Lockport

To the editor:

Your article "Lockport: no 'obvious failure' at group home" (June 11) neglects the obvious failure of Office of Children and Family Service's Commissioner Carrión to protect the public from the criminal youth entrusted to her care. The brutal murder of the Lockport group home employee, the shooting of a Rochester police officer and the repeated AWOLs and recent near riot at Randolph Home are evidence of the failed policies of Commissioner Carrión. In her zeal to close state operated facilities and place youth in the community, the Commissioner has chosen to ignore her responsibility to protect the public from dangerous youth.

Both young men charged with the Lockport murder were placed by OCFS in the private community residence. One them was moved from a more secure state operated facility. The youth charged with shooting Rochester Police officer DiPonzo in the back of the head was placed by OCFS in a private community program. The local sheriff is repeatedly called to chase escaped youth from Randolph House and quell disturbances.

The Commissioner's policy to place youth in unsecured community placements needs to be balanced by a policy to protect the public. It is time to say enough is enough and demand the end to inappropriate placement of dangerous youth in their communities. How many more have to die?

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