County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
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First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

March 10, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

IMPLEMENTING SENATE BILL 1193 (ITEM 42-A, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 11, 2014)

On February 11, 2014, a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas and Supervisor Knabe directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to:

1. In coordination with all appropriate departments, report back in writing in 30 days on the feasibility of implementing the mandates required under Senate Bill (SB) 1193 (Steinberg) to post basic information about human trafficking, as well as information related to specified nonprofit organizations that provide services to victims and to those working in support of the elimination of slavery and human trafficking;

2. Verify and include whether the County has taken any previous action to comply with the mandates of SB 1193; and

3. Work collaboratively with the District Attorney (DA) to implement and enforce SB 1193.

Human trafficking is an international crime industry generating an estimated $32 billion annually worldwide. Parallel to the increasing human trafficking activity is a growth in the commercial sex industry. Victims of the increase in sex trafficking include children, who are at times prostituted in the streets and at-risk of being raped, beaten, and murdered. SB 1193, which became effective on January 1, 2013, and is codified at

Civil Code Section 52.6, requires certain businesses and establishments to prominently post information about where victims of this crime can receive help. Pursuant to the statute, the poster must be printed in English, Spanish, and Chinese. According to the Registrar-Recorder's Office, it is the third most widely spoken language in Los Angeles County that complies with the Voting Rights Act.

At this time, we have reviewed the list of businesses and establishments in SB 1193 and consulted with County Counsel. We believe that the only County-operated locations that are required to post the information are the eight urgent care facilities and four emergency rooms operated by the Department of Health Services (DHS), which fall under Section 52.6(a)(7-8). DHS has indicated that the poster required by SB 1193 could be posted at these facilities within 30 days of this report, if requested. This office will make sure that DHS receives the finalized poster to be displayed as soon as it is completed by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST).

To date, the County has not taken action to comply with the mandates of SB 1193. The DA is now communicating with County Counsel, CEO, and CAST to bring the County into compliance with SB 1193 as quickly as possible. CAST completed a study that identified the businesses and locations throughout the County that are affected by SB 1193. According to that study, there are approximately 600 businesses in the County covered by the mandate, approximately 300 of which are located in the County's unincorporated areas and fall under the DA's jurisdiction for enforcement. Further, the DA is working with local city and County law enforcement agencies to determine the process for civil enforcement of this law and the staff training needed.

While the County is not required to do so, the DA is drafting a letter that will be sent to all 300 mandated businesses and establishments in the unincorporated areas of the County, informing them about SB 1193 and letting them know that they need to comply. The letter will be mailed by March 31, 2014.

According to SB 1193, the DA may impose a civil penalty on entities that fail to comply with the requirements of the bill within 30 days of receiving a notice of noncompliance. (This notice is given after inspection; it is not the same as the letter which will be sent out by March 31, 2014.) The penalties are stipulated as a civil penalty of $500 for the first offense and $1,000 for each subsequent offense. The DA has indicated that the Code Enforcement Section and Consumer Protection Division will handle compliance and enforcement issues relating to SB 1193 in the County's unincorporated areas. CAST is creating a database to track each relevant establishment that will allow the DA to monitor which entities have complied with the law after receiving notice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Although there are no other County facilities, aside from DHS described above that fall under the mandates of the law, it is recommended that the Board consider encouraging the field offices of the Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation to additionally post this information. As research is indicating that a significant number of these victims are youth who have, at one time, been involved with these departments, it may help in providing the information in areas where victims are increasingly likely to see it.

2. In addition to the 300 businesses to which the DA will be sending the courtesy notice, it is recommended that the DA also send a courtesy notice to independently contracted businesses that operate on County property.

3. It is also recommended that the letter being drafted by the DA include the signature of each Supervisor to demonstrate the County's commitment to addressing this issue.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Antonia Jiménez at (213) 974-7365, or via e-mail at ajimenez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:AJ
CDM:MP:eb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Children and Family Services
District Attorney
Health Services
Probation