

AGN. NO. _____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH**

JUNE 16, 2015

CREATING A LOS ANGELES COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that occurs when one person uses control over another person for economic gain. It can be categorized into two forms: labor trafficking and sex trafficking, which includes the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). According to the United States Department of Justice, CSEC involves physical and sexual abuse, pornography, prostitution, and the smuggling of children for unlawful purposes. Los Angeles County (County) has been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as one of the nation's high intensity areas for child sexual exploitation.

In recent years, the Board of Supervisors has called attention to this issue, funded programs and worked with the State Legislature to increase penalties for perpetrators. Several County departments have been involved in raising awareness, providing services for victims, and delivering training. These County departments collect

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**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
JUNE 16, 2015
PAGE 2**

separate data on victims, resulting in an unclear and inconsistent sense of the size and needs of the victim population, and hampering efforts to develop the most comprehensive approach to effectively reduce trafficking rates in the County. There is a need to coordinate efforts to minimize repetition, confusion and overlap. It is important that measures are taken to address the gaps in service coordination that will help stop the commercial exploitation of human beings. The County requires a centralized unit responsible for acting as the coordinating body and clearinghouse for all human trafficking related issues and items.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to convene a workgroup comprised of experienced employees, one from each of these departments: Probation, Children and Family Services (DCFS), Mental Health, Public Health, Sheriff and the District Attorney to meet and report back in 45 days on the feasibility of creating a Los Angeles County Human Trafficking Taskforce (Taskforce) within existing staff and resources. The workgroup should develop a strategic plan for the proposed Taskforce that includes the goals and objectives which shall be evaluated within three years to determine effectiveness and need. The Taskforce shall be placed within the Chief Executive Office and would utilize the resources and expertise of the Interim CEO and her staff, the Public Information Office (PIO), and other impacted County departments, as needed.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
JUNE 16, 2015
PAGE 3**

The purpose of the Taskforce is to:

1. Establish and maintain a database that can be used for research and information on trafficking cases;
2. Develop and operate a website (through the County PIO) where the public, service providers and County departments can find relevant information on issues and initiatives, along with links to upcoming events and meetings, service provider directories, legislative updates and data files and documents;
3. Oversee the Countywide expansion of the First Responder Protocol and related training to County employees, as well as the implementation of the State's SB 855 trafficking protocol;
4. Assess training needs and recommend training solutions (reviewing and assisting with curriculum design, as-needed) for those most at risk of victimization and to adults who serve as caregivers, service providers, teachers, and mentors to this population;
5. Assess and evaluate current County programs to determine if resources are appropriately allocated to avoid redundancy and eliminate ineffective programs;
6. Review and evaluate proposed initiatives on victim assistance, demand abatement and trafficking penalties;
7. Identify local, state and federal funding streams and opportunities to reallocate existing funds to support initiatives; and

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
JUNE 16, 2015
PAGE 4**

8. Partner with community-based organizations, survivor groups, school districts and other human trafficking taskforces to ensure that the County is effectively targeting its efforts and approach to this complex issue.

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(EW/LM/DJJ)