

County of Santa Clara

Office of the District Attorney

Office of the Sheriff



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 16, 2017

To: Human Trafficking Commission

Fr: L.E.I.H.T. Task Force

Re: Anti-Trafficking Accomplishments

The L.E.I.H.T. Task Force, formed in August 2014, is composed of a Sheriff's Office Sergeant, a Deputy District Attorney, two Sheriff's Office Detectives, and one District Attorney Investigator. Since its inception, the Probation Department, Office of Women's Policy, FBI, YWCA, and Community Solutions have joined the Task Force, and members of the aforementioned agencies regularly attend L.E.I.H.T.'s monthly meetings.

The L.E.I.H.T. Task Force has made significant strides in the fight against human trafficking. Because of L.E.I.H.T.'s existence and anti-trafficking efforts, the County, overall, has experienced an uptick in the number of exploitative situations uncovered, perpetrators prosecuted, and victims recovered. Additionally, an enormous amount of anti-trafficking outreach and education has taken place through L.E.I.H.T. We have successfully raised awareness among thousands of people, from community members, law enforcement, County agencies, and high school students, on the issue of human trafficking. As such, we have discovered what human trafficking and exploitation looks like in Santa Clara County, and have elevated both the community's and law enforcement's vigilance in rooting out exploitative situations.

Since August 2014, L.E.I.H.T. has apprehended 110 perpetrators, including pimps, panderers, traffickers, "Johns" or buyers of sex, and those assisting in prostitution. L.E.I.H.T. has contacted and offered services to 67 victims. Of the cases L.E.I.H.T. investigated, the District Attorney's Office filed felony and misdemeanor charges in a majority of those cases, which included human trafficking, pimping, pandering, soliciting prostituting, aiding in prostitution and running a house of prostitution charges. In 2014, the District Attorney's Office filed a total of 32 pimping, pandering, and human trafficking cases. In 2015, the District Attorney's Office filed 28 cases. In

2016 and 2017, 27 cases have been filed thus far. These filed cases include referrals from police agencies across Santa Clara County, and not just L.E.I.H.T. This data is in addition to the misdemeanor cases filed against perpetrators, “Johns”, and those who assisted in prostitution, and cases where L.E.I.H.T. assisted other police agencies in its human trafficking investigation by providing personnel, advice, conducting interviews, and collecting evidence. The status of L.E.I.H.T.’s cases vary as some have resolved and others are pending resolution. However, several of the perpetrators apprehended by L.E.I.H.T. have received prison sentences and or county jail terms.

L.E.I.H.T.’s anti-trafficking outreach and education efforts have been extensive and far-reaching. Since September 2014, L.E.I.H.T. has completed and/or participated in more than 100 outreach and training events, and successfully reached over 3,000 people because of those efforts. Members of the community consistently praise Santa Clara County and the L.E.I.H.T. Task Force for leading the way in utilizing a point-person protocol with the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking to support trafficking victims, and for allocating the resources necessary to educate the public about trafficking red flags. L.E.I.H.T.’s existence and outreach efforts, no doubt, play a role every time a victim of trafficking reports his or her victimization to law enforcements. L.E.I.H.T.’s existence is a strong statement that Santa Clara County is dedicated to holding perpetrators accountable and protecting all victims of exploitation. Below is a summary of the trainings and outreach events that L.E.I.H.T. has completed and/or participated in since 2014.

9/11/14	NCMEC Child Sexual Exploitation Training
9/12/14	Probation, Parole, Correctional Officers Association
9/27/14	Freedom House
10/3/14	The Hub
10/15/14	DA’s Office Brown Bag Lunch Presentation
10/28/14	Human Trafficking Commission
11/10/14	Social Workers at the Library Panel
1/9/15	Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Panel
1/9/15	Congregation Kol Emeth
1/15/15	NBC Bay Area HT interview
1/15/15	American Association of University Women
1/23/15	Human Trafficking Commission
2/4/15	Probation Department CSEC Training Class
2/7/15	Women’s Ministries
2/11/15	Human Trafficking Task Force Executives’ Session
3/4/15	DA’s Office Brown Bag Lunch Presentation
3/5/15	Probation Department CSEC Training Class
3/9/15	USC graduate student interview on HT
3/13/15	Human Trafficking Commission
3/24/15	Kim Phuong Vietnamese Radio Show
3/24/15	East Side Unified High School District
3/26/15	San Jose Unified School District
3/26/15	Bellarmino College Prep Human Trafficking Summit
3/27/15	Summit Public School
3/27/15	Independence High School
4/1/15	James Lick High School
4/9/15	Vietnamese Bar Association of Northern CA

4/11/15	Freedom House
4/17/15	Santa Clara County Child Abuse Symposium Panel
5/12/15	Human Trafficking Panel, Santa Clara Library
5/13/15	Stanford Law School Panel
5/15/15	Human Trafficking Commission
5/18/15	MVPD 2-hour POST HT training
5/21/15	Asian American Recovery Services HT Training
5/28/15	Human Trafficking Panel, Santa Clara University
6/2/15	Probation Department CSEC Training Class
6/16/15	Tri-County HT Task Force
6/18/15	MVPD 2-hour POST HT training
6/24/15	DA's Office Brown Bag Lunch Presentation
7/1/15	USC graduate student interview on HT
7/7/15	San Jose State University news interview on HT
7/15/15	County Environmental Health HT Training
7/16/15	County Code Enforcement HT Training
7/17/15	AACI HT Panel
7/21/15	Comunidad Del Valle HT Segment
7/22/15	County Environmental Health HT Training
8/3/15	Rotary Club of Palo Alto
8/5/15	Jewish Community Center HT Panel
8/13/15	Talking With Henrietta TV show
8/20/15	Select Hearing on State of Women and Girls
9/17/15	Foothill/DeAnza Police Department HT Training
9/18/15	SBCEHT Human Trafficking Conference
10/3/15	Freedom House
10/8/15	AACI South Bay First HT Panel
10/14/15	DA's Office Brown Bag Lunch Presentation
10/15/15	Washington Elementary HT Presentation
10/30/15	County Environmental Health HT Training
11/7/15	HT Panel Discussion, Santa Clara Convention Center
11/12/15	Santa Clara University HT Panel Discussion
11/16/15	San Jose State University HT Presentation
11/18/15	Hotel Managers HT Training with Santa Clara PD
11/19/15	Parent Project HT Presentation
11/20/15	HT Presentation for DA Attendance Collaborative
1/13/16	HT Presentation at Crosswalk Church, Sunnyvale
1/17/16	HT Presentation at JCC Los Gatos
2/29/16	HT Panel at Santa Clara University, Hark screening
3/17/16	HT Training, Evergreen Valley College
3/23/16	HT Panel, Bench, Bar, Media, Police
1/8/17	Know Your Rights, Greenfield, CA
1/12/17	Know Your Rights, Most Holy Trinity Church
1/14/17	Know Your Rights, Cathedral of Faith
2/13/17	Know Your Rights, St. Mary's Parish
3/11/17	HT Presentation to BBYO youth, Los Altos
3/16/17	HT Presentation, The Art Institute, Sunnyvale
3/25/17	HT Training, Freedom House
4/11/17	HT Presentation, San Jose State University
5/17/17	HT Presentation, Girl's Circle, Independence High School

Various Dates	P.O.S.T. HT Training of Various Law Enforcement Agencies
Various Dates	HT Protocol Training for Various Law Enforcement Agencies

The L.E.I.H.T. Task Force has advanced the fight against labor trafficking and exploitation in Santa Clara County. In 2015-2016, the L.E.I.H.T. Task Force and the DA's Office investigated and prosecuted owners of TapaOle Restaurant and Utopik Salon for labor exploitation and various fraud crimes. In April 2017, the District Attorney's Office successfully secured a 42 felony count indictment against the Defendants for their treatment of Spanish workers, and for various other crimes like perjury, insurance fraud, tax fraud, and welfare fraud. Additionally, in the first quarter of 2017, the L.E.I.H.T. Task Force initiated a series of "Know Your Rights" outreach events to encourage victims of labor trafficking and exploitation to report their victimization to law enforcement. One such event in Gilroy drew a crowd of over 120 people.

The L.E.I.H.T. Task Force has aggressively pursued commercial sex traffickers in Santa Clara County. In February 2017, L.E.I.H.T. investigated and arrested two pimps for human trafficking of a minor. The male pimp bought a teenage girl from a female pimp when the female pimp no longer had use for her. Detective Tony Chang of the L.E.I.H.T. Task Force received special recognition from the VTA for his investigation of this important case. If convicted, the male pimp faces a maximum of 25 years and 4 months in state prison, and the female pimp faces a maximum of 12 years in state prison.

The L.E.I.H.T. Task Force is a resource for other police agencies in the County for human trafficking investigations. L.E.I.H.T. hosts a bi-monthly Task Force meeting where updates on the law and trends are discussed, and intel on suspects, locations, and victims are exchanged. L.E.I.H.T. receives calls from other police agencies multiple times a week for advice and assistance on human trafficking investigations. Law enforcement agencies across the County are increasingly experienced and effective in conducting sex and labor trafficking investigations due to L.E.I.H.T.'s proactive operations, investigative collaborations, and its role as a legal and investigative resource. L.E.I.H.T. initiates undercover operations every month in different cities to abate human trafficking across the County. Operations in Milpitas, Santa Clara, and Gilroy have been extremely successful as they have proven to be some of busiest and most productive operations to date in terms of identifying exploiters, citing "Johns" or buyers of sex, and recovering potential victims and offering them services.

L.E.I.H.T. is leading the way in addressing demand in Santa Clara County. During Super Bowl operations in 2016, and in subsequent operations to date, the L.E.I.H.T. Task Force uses undercover efforts to root out buyers of sex with the same focus and intensity as is used to identify pimps. Because of these operations, L.E.I.H.T. successfully showed that most buyers of sex are Santa Clara County residents; a fact that may prove useful in developing demand reduction policies in the future. L.E.I.H.T. regularly participates in working groups and subcommittees dedicated to developing and refining programs, like VALOR, to address and reduce demand for commercial sex in our County.

The L.E.I.H.T. Task Force's future objectives include expanding its reach by collaborating more meaningfully with nearby police agencies on investigations, aggressively tackling labor exploitation, and focusing its energies on investigating complex criminal organizations involved in human trafficking and exploitation.