

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

COMMISSIONERS

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HELEN I. TORRES



COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN

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PAULA PETROTTA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

September 18, 2006

Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring Street
City of Los Angeles
Atten: Lauraine Braithwaite

Subj: **Quarterly Report of the Human Trafficking Efforts by the Commission on the Status of Women**

Please find attached a copy of the Commission the Status of Women's *Quarterly Report on Human Trafficking Efforts* by the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission respectful request that this document and its' attachments be scheduled for the City Council's agenda and to be and adopted by Council at the first available opportunity. Should you have questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Anne Dunn, Sr. Project Coordinator, Human Trafficking. She may be reached in the Commission office at 2123-978-0300.

Thank you,

Anne Dunn, Sr. Project Coordinator
Human Trafficking
Commission on the Status of Women

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PAULA PETROTTA
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ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

Date: September 18, 2006

To: The Honorable Los Angeles City Council

From: Paula Petrotta, Executive Director 
Commission on the Status of Women

Subject: CF 04-0786 - First Quarter Report on Human Trafficking Efforts by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW, Commission or the Department)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain the Senior Project Coordinator position in the Commission on the Status Women dedicated to the work of Human Trafficking.

Adopt the CSW Report on the Human Trafficking report herein.

Adopt the Human Trafficking & Child Prostitution Task Force Report and the recommendations herein.

Reaffirm the City's commitment to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Services and the CSW *Look Beneath the Surface* Campaign Adopted by City Council September 2005.

Instruct CAO to finalize their report to the Public Safety Committee on ways to fund the recommendations of the Human Trafficking and Child Prostitution Task Force Report.

Adopt Community Development Department's (CDD) recommendations attached.

BACKGROUND

It is estimated by the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons 2004 Report that every ten minutes a woman, child or man is recruited, kidnapped or smuggled into the United States to work as a slave. Whether it is through sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, smuggling or debt bondage, victims of human trafficking find themselves in untenable situations. Human Trafficking is a commodity, which has been in existence since the beginning of time. Victims of this crime are forced to work in extremely oppressive situations by those who hold them in captivity. Many

women and girls who are victims of human trafficking work as prostitutes in brothels, pornography rings, or in unpaid or indentured or forced labor in sweatshops, domestic servitude or as laborers in agriculture, under harsh conditions. This form of modern day slave trade passes victims from hand to hand; they can be bought and sold many times over.

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that between 600,000 to 800,000 individuals are trafficked across international borders annually; 80% are women and girls sold into sexual slavery. Many victims of human trafficking have been severely abused, some die under such cruel punishment before they reach their point of destination. In the United States 14,500 to 17,000 persons have been trafficked through airports, harbors and border crossings each year. The true numbers are unknown because human trafficking is an insidious, multifaceted criminal industry.

Victims of human trafficking are also victims of many other crimes, such as, domestic violence, robbery, kidnapping, assault, rape, and homicide. Perpetrators abroad prefer to operate in countries where weak governments go hand in hand with corrupt officials and law enforcement. It is for this reason that victims do not trust officials in the U. S. when there has been a bust. Victims are not aware of the benefits they might be eligible for; therefore, they are unable to seek any assistance. Furthermore, if informed about their rights, they often do not trust or believe that the information is correct. Their captors have told them that law enforcement will not help them.

Human trafficking is a global problem. Human trafficking is a 9 billion dollar a year criminal industry. It is the third largest criminal industry, third only to guns and drugs. Its roots lie in many countries abroad as well as local and domestic trafficking. For example, we have read the stories that were recently published in the *Los Angeles Times* about wealthy Beverly Hills families and a Sony executive, who had children enslaved in their homes carrying out domestic work.

In October 2000, the federal government took the first steps to make human trafficking a federal crime by passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). The TVPA is a multi-level plan to: prevent human trafficking abroad; protect and assist victims/survivors to rebuild their lives in the U.S.; and prosecute traffickers under federal penalty. Prior to this law, no comprehensive law existed to prosecute traffickers.

In 2003, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) came into existence to authorize more than \$200 million dollars to fight the crime of human trafficking.

CITY'S RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In April 2004, the Los Angeles City Council was stunned to learn that Mexican women and girls were being trafficked into Los Angeles neighborhoods and forced into prostitution. In this particular instance, the victims were being housed in South Los Angeles. The City Council instructed the CSW to do the following:

1. Create a multi-level task force of federal, city, and state agencies (such as LAPD, LA County Sheriffs, Homeland Security, Office of the Attorney General along with local non-governmental organizations (NGO's), community-based organizations (CBO's), and others to participate in a fact-sharing mission regarding the status of victims services and dispositions in Los Angeles.
2. Create a protocol between local, federal and state law enforcement agencies on notification of potential crimes involving trafficked victims and perpetrators.
3. Establish an outreach program for victims that would have a 24-hour hotline number.
4. The CSW is to report on training resources for LAPD responders on trafficked victims and sexually abused victims, and the formation of a consistent partnership with CBO's that counsel victims of rape, sexual abuse, and human trafficking as it relates to these crimes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The CSW has trained the city's housing inspectors, various staff from virtually all city departments. The list includes but is not limited to: Airports, Harbor, CDD, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Recreation & Parks, Animal Services, Building & Safety, Public Works, Street Services, Sanitation, the LA Zoo and others. CSW has also trained outside agencies and community members, either through the Neighborhood Councils or other community groups and organizations, such as Kiwanis Clubs, Apartment Owners Association or Restaurant Owners Association, who have requested training.

The CSW work plan focuses around the issues of training, Building the Health & Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Coalition, Public Outreach, Prevention, Victims Services, Legislative Support, Media and Reports to Mayor and City Council.

The Commission is coordinating with the San Diego based Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (SDBSCC) on a Promise Grant issued from the Office of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). This grant was awarded to SDBSCC to coordinate in other major cities and educate the public on the sexual exploitation of children. The Commission will be conducting forums in the Los Angeles area on this issue.

Coalition Building

The Los Angeles City Coalition is the largest in the nation. The CSW has created a membership of more than two hundred organizations who are committed and have partnered with the city to work on the issue of human trafficking in Los Angeles. The CSW chairs the meetings, provides technical assistance to the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community based organizations (CBOs) that are members of the Coalition.

Prevention and Education of Minors

The CSW has designed a program targeting young women that will educate them about Internet predators. Girl Savvy is a prevention program in the pilot program stages and scheduled to be implemented in Young Women from Adversity to Resilience (YWAR) schools.

LA Woman-Human Trafficking Edition

The CSW has created a newsletter on human trafficking. The first edition was issued Summer 2006.

Public Outreach

Co-Sponsor a National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness in City Council. This day will be devoted to a meeting of Coalition members and recognition in City Council for the efforts around human trafficking awareness. September 29, 2006 has been designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The Commission is also working to broaden public awareness through the ORR *Look Beneath the Surface* Campaign by dispensing fact sheets and other materials to the community. The Commission has also had speaking engagements to discuss the city's efforts.

Media

The Commission has developed a media strategy for human trafficking by using broadcast, print, ads, toolkits, posters, and indoor advertising. The department has consulted on a thirty-minute film on human trafficking, *The Bridge*. The story line for this film takes place in downtown Los Angeles; a fourteen-year-old homeless teen girl is sold into prostitution by her drug-addicted mother. The Commission has a televised program in which it plans to have an investigative segment on human trafficking.

Victim Services

The Commission is a primary resource for the City and community on human trafficking issues. The Commission has developed a pilot program for victim assistance, much like the DART teams, to provide onsite assistance for victims of human trafficking. The multi-lingual Sexual Trafficking Abuse Response Teams (START) would consist of agencies designed to assist victims in specific needs, i.e., legal, shelter, T-VPA information, advocacy, crisis counseling and more.

Training

CSW must continue to train city departments and other appropriate community-based agencies on human trafficking awareness and victims services. The CSW has held eight trainings on human trafficking awareness. The Commission must continue to *lead* the implementation of the training of city employees. This education among city employees enables the city to assist in the identification of victims.

Funding

The Commission has applied for a grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In addition, the Commission has submitted a proposal to HHS for trafficking identification through a partnership with San Diego-based Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition. The Commission continues to seek out resources to fund this critical program that impacts the lives of many.

While the Commission has made significant strides in many areas there is still a lot of work to be done by the Senior Project Coordinator, to fully implement the city's commitment to victims of human trafficking. For example: Maintain the dedicated position in the Commission that was allocated to work on human trafficking issues. Continue with the City's commitment to HHS/ORR to implement the National *Look Beneath the Surface* Campaign. The Commission has built a strong working relationship with local NGO's and CBO's who are members of the Los Angeles Coalition; the Commission needs to carry on that support. The City of Los Angeles is part of a greater picture in the Southern California. The Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange County coalitions have submitted a joint proposal to coordinate their efforts for victim support.

The following are primary objectives of the work plan that are yet to be implemented:

The Commission has developed the *Girl Savvy* pilot program, which has yet to be fully implemented in schools. This informative tool is potentially life saving for young teen women who use the Internet. Safety and prevention for minors is a critical component.

The Commission is in the process of organizing four forums in four separate geographic areas of Los Angeles on human trafficking awareness. The proposed forums will be held in the San Fernando Valley, East Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, and South Los Angeles at designated sites.

The Commission is in the process of working with local media around human trafficking issues. CSW has developed a strategy that has yet to be implemented especially in the hard to reach ethnic communities, i.e., El Salvadorian, Ethiopian, Middle Eastern, Russian, Cameroonian and other disparate communities in Los Angeles County. The Commission will direct a segment of LA Woman on Channel 35 that will focus on human trafficking issues.

In the area of victim services, the Commission has yet to implement one of its most aggressive pilots START (like DART, trained advocates domestic violence response team). The Commission

has a cadre of service providers who will offer resources and services needed to assist victims to make them whole again. START will provide housing, legal assistance, T-VPA information, medical, and therapeutic crisis intervention services.

The Commission is currently working on accomplishing the goals of the work plan adopted by its Board of Commissioners. The goals include:

- Building victims services capacity
- Establishing a network of service providers
- Creating public awareness about human trafficking throughout Los Angeles
- Assisting and promoting human trafficking bills; supporting legislators
- Educating minors about the risk of online predators
- Training city departments and other appropriate agencies
- Collaborating with stakeholders
- Building Los Angeles Rescue and Restore Coalition (ORR/HHS campaign)
- Developing a media campaign
- Developing resources for city employees and the community
- Developing a Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Developing quarterly reports to City Council and an annual report to the Mayor

The Commission has worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in Washington D.C. on human trafficking issues to assist in the achievement of these goals. Through the work of the Commission, ORR has designated the Commission on the Status of Women as the Official Signer for Los Angeles. The Executive Director attended the Presidential signing of H.R. 972, Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act in Washington D.C. This bill appropriates 361 million dollars to combat trafficking. The Los Angeles based coalition built by the Commission is the largest in the nation. HHS has traveled from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles to visit the City's Los Angeles Based Coalition on more that four occasions. HHS considers Los Angeles to be the model city.

Other coalition members throughout the nation often call upon the Commission to share best practices or resource materials. The Commission's website has many human trafficking links that serves other coalitions or interested parties that may want to conduct research on human trafficking. The Commission also receives calls from CBO's, i.e., shelters requesting help with capacity building or technical assistance.

The Commission is in the process of training Neighborhood Councils as well as city employees and other outside agencies. The Commission serves on the LAPD Metropolitan Task Force in a lead role. Also, the Commission has been requested to act as a consultant on several human trafficking matters. While there have been great strides in a relatively short period of time, the Commission believes that there are other accomplishments to be made before we can see an end to human trafficking in Los Angeles.

Attachments

Attachment A CF 04-0786
Attachment B Community Development Department Recommendations
Attachment C Human Trafficking Work Plan
Attachment D LA Woman Newsletter on Human Trafficking
Attachment E Recent Cases in Los Angeles
Attachment F Human Trafficking & Child Prostitution Report

Recent cases of Human Trafficking in Los Angeles:

According to a recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) newsletter, more than 700 of the 5,000 child sex offenders arrested by ICE, as part of an ongoing international initiative known as Operation Predator, have occurred in the Los Angeles area, more than any other metropolitan area in the nation.

In the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), an 86-year-old man planned to meet with preteen girls from the Philippines for sex: ICE agents arrested John W. Seljan as he prepared to board a flight at LAX to engage in sex with two Philippine girls, ages 9 and 12. In his luggage ICE agents discovered child pornography, sexual aids, and nearly 100 pounds of chocolates and other candies. Seljan was arrested and convicted on six counts; he is scheduled for sentencing and faces a maximum of 270 years in prison.

A Thai restaurant owner, Suphawan Veerapol, held two Thai women against their will for more than five years. Ms. Veerapol forced these victims to work eighteen hours a day, seven days a week in her Woodland Hills home and in her restaurant.

In upscale Rancho Palos Verdes, a businessman, Robert Lie, held an Indonesian woman, Suprik Indrawwati, captive. Initially she was forced to massage his feet and legs. After performing this duty over a period of time she was forced to massage higher up his legs and genitals and was then repeatedly raped by him. She and her aunt were able to smuggle a note out for help.

A smuggler offered to take a Thai born woman, Somphid Chijamroen, to the U. S. She accepted the opportunity. The smuggler paid for everything she needed, a fake passport, work visa, and a one-way plane ticket to Los Angeles. The smuggler told her that if she worked as a prostitute in an L.A.-based massage parlor, her debt would be gone soon. She was told that the smuggler had incurred a debt of \$40,000 to get her to the U.S. After approximately four months of almost 400 encounters of paid sex, Chijamroen paid her debt. She did not leave the massage parlor after her debt was paid because she said it was the only work she knew.

In July 2005 two criminal syndicates were suspected of smuggling hundreds of South Korean women into the U.S. to work in brothels in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Raids of these massage parlors, chiropractors offices and apartments in Los Angeles and San Francisco by federal agents and local law enforcement, yielded over 150 suspected prostitutes, more than half who were arrested were determined to be victims of trafficking.

In Las Vegas, Mary Ha from China allegedly masterminded a scheme that brought women from Hong Kong to the U.S. and rotated them through brothels in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Atlanta and Minneapolis.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

CLIFFORD W. GRAVES
GENERAL MANAGER

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT



1200 W. 7TH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

Date: March 22, 2006

To: Anne Dunn, Assistant Executive Director Commission on the Status of Women

From: Clifford Graves, General Manager Community Development Department

Reference: Report Back Funding Recommendations Human Trafficking CF# 04-0786

SUBJECT:

REQUEST the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning and the Community Development Department to report on funding sources that the City could apply for in order to expand services for trafficking victims

INTSRUCT Community Development Department to investigate expanding funding of shelters for trafficking victims

SUMMARY:

As budgets tighten, cities and counties around the country are facing increasing pressure to provide the same level of services and programs with less funding. Through the use of the City's contracted internet based eCivis Grants Locator, which helps local governments with grant research. CDD researched Human Trafficking funding opportunities available from State and Federal agencies as well as Foundations. The research period covered January 2005-January 2006 resulting in 13 Human Trafficking Grants of which 11 can/could be applied for by the city. The following chart provides a summary of the grants available during this period:

Grant Title	Agency	Actual \$	Due Date	NOF/
<input type="checkbox"/> US1726A Law Enforcement Task Forces and Services for Human Trafficking Victims (Part A): Victim Services Funding - FY 2006	US Department of Justice	N/A	04/18/2006 (Multiple)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> US1726B Law Enforcement Task Forces and Services for Human Trafficking Victims (Part B): Law Enforcement Task Force Funding - FY 2006	US Department of Justice	N/A	04/18/2006 (Multiple)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> US5530 Research on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth - FY 2006	US Department of Agriculture	\$1,300,000	03/14/2006 (Multiple)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> CA1030 Homeless Youth and Exploitation (HX) Program - FY 2007	CA Other	\$1,117,500	02/28/2006	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> US5555 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) Resource Guide Discretionary Grant - FY 2006	US Department of Justice	\$200,000	02/23/2006	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> US3111 Crime and Justice Research Program - FY 2006	US Department of Justice	N/A	01/24/2006	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> US4957 Evaluation of OJJDP's Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Demonstration Program in Atlanta/Fulton County - FY 2006	US Department of Justice	\$500,000	11/29/2005	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> HS1780 Allocation to States for Refugee Social Services - FY 2005	US Department of Health	\$164,888,000	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/>			and Human Services			
<input type="checkbox"/>	US4825	Anti-Trafficking in Persons - FY 2006	US State Department	\$2,000,000	05/27/2005 (Multiple)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	US4761	BJA/OVC Joint Call for Human Trafficking Concept Papers - FY 2005	US Department of Justice	N/A	05/12/2005	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	US4481	Research on Trafficking in Human Beings - FY 2005	US Department of Justice	\$1,200,000	03/31/2005	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA0064	Child Sexual Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Program - FY 2006	CA Other	\$256,500	03/25/2005	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	US3896	Law Enforcement and Service Provider Multidisciplinary Anti-Trafficking Task Forces - FY 2004	US Department of Justice	N/A	10/06/2004	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECOMMENDATION:

Trafficking in human beings includes recruiting, harbouring, obtaining, and transporting people by use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjecting them to involuntary acts, such as commercial sexual exploitation (including prostitution) or involuntary labour, i.e., enslaving them. Some see human trafficking as the modern form of slavery. Human trafficking is the trade of human beings and their use by criminals to make money. This often means forcing or tricking people into prostitution, begging, or work in sweatshops, domestic servitude and manual labor

Through the expansion of Domestic Violence Emergency Shelters the city could provide assistance to Human Trafficking Victims. Domestic Violence Shelter's currently provide exclusively to survivors of domestic violence and their families. Through individualized case-managed plan of services that ensures victims immediate safety and, over the longer term, motivates and equip them with appropriate skills and self-knowledge to support themselves and their families.

Participants receive psycho-social counseling, job preparation/readiness, job search assistance, financial management and parenting skills, among other services needed to enhance their personal stability and improve their economic opportunities. Currently CDD provides 2.8 million dollars in CDBG funds for Emergency and Transitional beds located in 13 Domestic Violent shelters throughout the city.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES AND FUNDING FOR PY2005-06

AGENCY	FUNDING	SHELTER TYPE	# OF BEDS
1736 Family Crisis Center Inc.	474,507	Emergency and Transitional	20 Emergency 20 Transitional
African Community Resource Center, Inc.	248,400	Transitional	20 Transitional
Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Inc.	83,334	Emergency	45 Emergency
Chicana Service Action Center	327,600	Emergency and Transitional	28 Emergency 91 Transitional
Haven Hills, Inc.	391,294	Emergency and Transitional	38 Emergency 84 Transitional
Jenesse Center, Inc.	385,899	Emergency and Transitional	35 Emergency 40 Transitional
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles	73,008	Transitional	18 Transitional
Ocean Park Community Center	111,950	Emergency	22 Emergency
Prototypes	74,880	Transitional	18 Transitional
Rainbow Services, Ltd.	262,080	Emergency and Transitional	24 Emergency 38 Transitional
Southern California Alcohol and Drug Programs, Inc.	189,926	Emergency	30 Emergency
Women Advancing the Valley Through Education, Economics and Empowerment	231,646	Transitional	177 Transitional

CDD recommends an Interdepartmental Partnership with the Commission on the Status of Women, Housing, and LAPD. Through this partnership a collaborative consisting of representatives from each department would work towards securing additional grant funds to increase the funding level of the Domestic Violence Shelters. The additional grant funds would allow for an increase in beds and staff, which would be needed to address the needs of Human Trafficking Victims in a safe and secure environment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There would be no impact on the General Fund.

MC:

CSW HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKPLAN

JANUARY 2006 – DECEMBER 2008



GOAL	PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	STATUS	
			Completed	Ongoing
Coalition Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build and manage the Los Angeles Human Trafficking Coalition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, train, manage, and expand City Coalition of over 200 coalition partners to educate public and identify victims Continue to manage Trafficking Coalition Provide technical support to local community based organizations, build organizational capacity and victim identification. 		<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>
Prevention and Education of Minors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate minors about the risk of human trafficking and internet predators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a prevention program, "Girl Savvy" in several continuation schools to educate youth about the dangers of human trafficking and Internet use Implement "Girl Savvy" program 	X	<p>X</p>
Public Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create public awareness regarding Human Trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Federal-City partnership with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Submit trafficking outreach grant and contract proposals to HHS Conduct public awareness campaign utilizing federal and local resources: DVD's, Resource cards, Fact Sheets Expand trafficking outreach capacity Co-sponsor National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, hold public hearings and meetings Organize 4 community-wide forums in 4 council districts 	<p>X</p> <p>X</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop media campaign to raise public awareness and identify victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in Refugee Day Participate in Channel 54 panel on Refugees Produce Trafficking segment Channel 54 Consult on "The Bridge," a 30 minute Implement media strategy (broadcast, print, ads, toolkit, posters, indoor advertising, PSA's) including ethnic media 	<p>X</p> <p>X</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>
Quarterly/Annual Public Safety Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform City Council/Mayor of activities related to human trafficking in the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit quarterly report to City Council/Mayor Submit annual report to City Council/Mayor 	X	X

CSW HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKPLAN

JANUARY 2006 – DECEMBER 2008

GOALS	PRIMARY OBJECTIVES	KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	STATUS	
			Completed	Ongoing
Victim Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build victim services capacity • Establish network of service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the Commission as a primary resource for the City and community on Human Trafficking • Provide technical assistance, mentoring and collaborative partnerships to service providers and victims • Ensure victim certification, benefits and services • Implement pilot program for victim services using the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) model. The Sexual Trafficking Abuse Response Team (START) would consist of appropriate agencies providing multi-lingual assistance for legal services, shelter, crisis counseling, advocacy, support and resource information to trafficked victims on a 24 hour basis 	X	X X X
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train City departments, appropriate community and public agencies on human trafficking and how to identify victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained Inspectors (Los Angeles Housing Department, LA Department of Building and Safety, General Managers and senior staff 45 City Departments. • Trained over 600 City employees • Trained Kiwanas Clubs and other service organizations • Conducted Neighborhood Council public meetings • Train all City Departments • Utilize the Neighborhood Councils to increase the number of citizen trained to identify victims of human trafficking • Implement role assigned to the Commission in L.A. Metropolitan Task Force as co-partner to train first responders such as fire, medical, legal, transportation personnel, health inspectors, Building and Code enforcement, landlords, and apartment managers. 	X X X	X X X X



Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women

L.A. Woman

Commission on the Status of Women, a City department focusing on issues impacting women and girls in Los Angeles

OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women commends Councilmember Tony Cardenas for making human trafficking a top public safety issue. "The high priority the City has given human trafficking and slavery is unprecedented in City government," said Paula Petrotta, Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women

Every ten minutes, a woman, child, or man is recruited, kidnapped, or smuggled into the United States as a victim of modern-day

slavery. Victims are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion by their captors to work against their will in labor and sex industries settings. Victims of labor trafficking work in businesses that may appear to be legitimate making it difficult for the public or law enforcement to detect the victims and crimes. The U.S. Department of State estimates that worldwide between 600,000 to 800,000 persons are trafficked annually. Now a 9 billion dollar crime industry, human trafficking

threatens not only citizens from developing countries, but our own men, women, and youth in cities and rural areas across America. In the U.S. it is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,000 persons are trafficked through harbors, border crossings and airports every year, but the true numbers remain unknown. What is known is that Los Angeles is a major point of entry for many trafficking victims, and 80% are women and girls.

TASK FORCE FINDS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AN URGENT PUBLIC SAFETY PROBLEM

April 23, 2004 Councilmember Tony Cardenas spearheaded the City's response to "this egregious human rights tragedy" after a raid in South Los Angeles found fourteen women and girls trafficked from Mexico who had been bound, stripped of passports and forced to work as prostitutes.

City Council approved a motion designating the Commission on the Status of Women to create and oversee the Human Trafficking and Child Prostitution Task Force and report back findings and recommendations.

After nine months of rigorous work, the Commission published the Human Trafficking and Child Prostitution Task Force Report. The task force identified existing services, needs and gaps in services. The report details the extent of the problem along with its findings and recommendations to address the crime of sexual trafficking and abuse of women and

minors. Findings highlighted the need to enhance collaborations and protocols between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Other recommendations called for a broad public awareness campaign to identify victims, training of city and county agencies, service providers, community organizations and businesses. The need to expand the housing and services capacity for victims was identified. An urgent public safety problem is the increasing numbers of American minors being trafficked across states and countries and the rise of sex predators using the internet to lure youngsters into pornography and sex trades.

Councilmember Tony Cardenas stated that, "the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, advocacy groups, community members and law enforcement have shown me what I initially feared, "this hideous crime is hap-

pening to our own children in southern California. Trafficking of adults and minors is no longer someone else's problem on another continent; it is our problem right here in Los Angeles."



Councilmember Tony Cardenas, "This hideous crime is happening in our neighborhoods and impacts our youth."

CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATES COMMISSION AS LEAD CITY DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT ANTI-TRAFFICKING PLAN

Paula Petrotta asked that "every City department and L.A. resident become the 'eyes and ears of the City.'" "There are signs that communities need to be aware of in recognizing human trafficking. Following the South Los Angeles bust many residents remarked that although what they saw in their neighborhood looked suspicious, they had no idea what was going on or who to call." In the outreach effort to enlist the Neighborhood Councils in the Rescue and Restore effort, the Commission hosted a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Community Meeting that focused on human trafficking indicators

with presenters from Los Angeles Police Department (Organized Crime and Vice Division), Los Angeles Fire Department, FBI, Immigration Customs Enforcement and Hollywood Police Department.

To further the Councilmember's commitment to train every city employee, the first in a series of trainings was conducted on December 13, 2005 in the Tom Bradley Tower targeting General Managers and senior staff of 45 city departments.

"Employees from Building and Safety to our Department of Water and Power may come into contact with trafficking victims

every day and not know it. With over 30 City departments joining our coalition, we have the first responders line of defense," said Paula Petrotta. In February 2006, the Commission coordinated the second human trafficking training for employees and plans to train community partners.

The Commission is an active member on the City of Los Angeles Metropolitan Task Force, an interagency collaborative aimed at combating human trafficking in Los Angeles.

CITY CREATES FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP AND LOCAL COALITION

“Officials in Washington D.C. are looking to Los Angeles as a national model. We have created a precedent-setting partnership with local, federal government and the community,” said Paula Petrotta. “Women’s Commissions across the country will play an important role in the fight against trafficking.”

September 28, 2005 on the steps of City Hall and in an address to City Council, Councilmember Tony Cardenas announced his plan to train 35,000 City employees as the first and second tier responders.

Washington D.C. officials from the Department of Health and Human Services stood beside Councilmember Cardenas and Commission Executive Director Paula Petrotta to launch the City’s commitment to educate the public and identify the victims. “We have built

a coalition of over 200 community organizations,” said Paula Petrotta. “They stand before you today ready to serve and educate our communities and let the traffickers of human beings know they are not welcome to do business in our City.”

Coalition members filled the room at the Grace Simons Lodge on April 28, 2006 for the first community human trafficking meeting with the Commission, Councilmember, and the newly appointed representatives of Department of Health and Human Services. This coalition from a diverse cross section of public and private sector organizations will partner with the City to lead one of the largest community outreach campaigns nationwide.

June 15, 2006 City and coalition partners met to develop an action plan for the City’s

collaborative public awareness campaign.



Paula Petrotta, Executive Director with Ambassador John Miller and Dr. Laura Lederer at White House bill signing

COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ATTENDS PRESIDENT SIGNING OF H.R. 972

On January 10, 2006 President Bush signed H.R. 972: Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. The federal legislation appropriates 361 million dollars over the next two years to combat human trafficking, strengthen anti-trafficking laws and fight domestic sex trafficking. The Act appropriates funds to the

Department of Justice to assist state and local law enforcement agencies. Fifty million dollars will be allocated in 2006-07 to investigate and prosecute criminals who purchase commercial sex. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will receive funds to establish a grants program to assist American trafficking victims and provide support to local outreach campaigns.

The Commission coordinates with the local and state legislators in support of human trafficking legislation. Two key pieces of legislation were signed into law in September of 2005: Assembly Bill 22 (Lieber) and Senate Bill 180

(Kuehl). These bills make human trafficking for forced labor or sex services a felony punishable by a 3-5 year sentence in state prison and a sentence of 4 to 8 years for trafficking of a minor. The bills include mandatory restitution and enable victims to prosecute their traffickers in civil suits. Legislation includes a statewide interagency task force, the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery to address human trafficking training, victim services, prosecutions, public awareness, and interagency coordination.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING MODERN-DAY SLAVERY FACTS

- Trafficking is the third largest illegal and criminal industry in the world today after drugs and arms dealing.
- 14,500 to 17,500 estimated victims are trafficked to the United States annually (U.S. State Department).
- Traffickers lure victims by false promises, fraudulent business opportunities, or money. They can earn up to 50,000 dollars per victim.
- The internet is a growing medium for traffickers, recruiters, sex predators, and child pornography.
- Traffickers can be wealthy or poor, organized or individual criminals, diplomats, successful business persons in any industry.
- Annually 250,000 American minors are victims of trafficking often transported across state and international lines.

Trafficking vs. Smuggling

Smuggling is transnational, involves consent of those being smuggled. Trafficking entails an exploitative relationship by force, fraud, or coercion.

Types of Trafficking

Sex trafficking, involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which the act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or if the person is under the age of 18 years. Victims report they cannot escape because they are threatened, abused, even tortured and constantly watched. Sex trafficking includes: Forced prostitution, pornography, military prostitution, sex tourism, sex with a minor.

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking, involves the recruitment, harboring transportation provision, obtaining of a person for the purposes of: involuntary servitude, debt bondage, bonded labor under threats of violence, force, fraud or coercion.

Sex and Labor Trafficking Settings

Factories, sweatshops, construction sites, hotels, restaurants, adult entertainment industry, massage parlors, tourism industry, agricultural settings. Traffickers may force their victims into marriages (domestic servitude), prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, and child commercial sexual exploitation. A variety of small and large businesses may be operated by traffickers and their networks.

To report potential trafficking incidents call Los Angeles Police Department at (213) 485-2511

For copies of the Human Trafficking and Child Prostitution Task Force Report or

For information contact: Commission on the Status of Women at (213) 978-0300

The Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women is a City department established by ordinance of the City Council and Mayor in 1975. The Commission promotes the welfare and ensures equity for women and girls in the City and Los Angeles community.