

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE AND HILDA SOLIS

June 16, 2015

Senate Bill (SB) 855, which passed last year, calls for counties to submit a plan for services for victims of child sex trafficking, in order to qualify for funding that has been allocated for this purpose. Over the past four years, the County has emerged as a leading player on all fronts: putting in place the first “First Responder Protocol” in the nation, training thousands of County staff and service providers, advocating for state and federal legislation and, most importantly, developing groundbreaking programs and services for the young victims of this horrific practice, many of whom are in foster care or involved in the juvenile justice system.

The County will be submitting its plan for SB 855 funding at the end of this month, and I fully expect we will be successful. But if we are going to be successful in addressing the needs of the victims in totality, we need to look beyond just qualifying for a funding source. We know that these victims travel through our foster care systems and our delinquency systems, oftentimes concurrently, and they have unique challenges. Obviously, we have multi-disciplinary models for many issues that fall between departmental jurisdictions, but I believe we should consider a new operational model to administer and oversee programs and services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children exclusively, that pulls in expertise from all County departments that have relevant involvement, as well as key stakeholders such as the juvenile court.

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MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Interim Chief Executive Officer work in collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Probation Department and any other relevant County department, to explore the feasibility of a new, unified operational model to administer programs and services exclusively for victims of child sex trafficking, and report back in 45 days.

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