

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND DON KNABE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

**ESTABLISH A COUNTY-WIDE MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE MODEL TO COMBAT  
THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN LOS ANGELES**

Numerous jurisdictions around the nation are forming task forces and creating response protocols in their efforts to combat the sex trafficking of children. Los Angeles County (County) is amongst those jurisdictions that recognize the need for, not just a task force, but new laws and initiatives to enhance awareness, provide services and criminalize exploiters and purchasers.

In November 2012, the Board of Supervisors (Board) established a task force led by the Probation Department and the Department of Children and Family Services (Task Force), to convene meetings with all involved parties in the County and report back in six months with recommendations to address sex trafficking in the County. The Task Force provided the Board with a report with recommendations in July 2013.

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MOTION

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Among the recommendations was the proposal to create a county-wide interagency response model to assist victims, collect data and provide training to all agencies who serve these victims. Law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, medical care and public health systems as well as nonprofit organizations should work together and communicate with each other so they can effectively serve these victims.

This proposed response model will create a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that will be followed county-wide by all public and private sector agencies for responding to victims of sex trafficking. Creating a multi-agency response model, whereby the County departments of Public Health, Mental Health, Health Services, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, Sheriff and Probation and private sector agencies communicate and collaborate, is vitally important to ensuring the County designs a response model that most effectively keeps victims of sex trafficking from returning back to being trafficked.

Such a strategic response model for human sex trafficking is long overdue in Los Angeles County. The Federal Bureau of Investigation determined that Los Angeles is one of the nation's thirteen high intensity child prostitution areas. In 2010, Los Angeles County Probation Department identified 174 sexually trafficked youth; nearly 70% were a part of the child welfare system.

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**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to coordinate with the Sex Trafficking Task Force and the Departments of Probation, Children and Family Services, Public Social Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Health Services and Sheriff to create the Los Angeles County multi-agency response model and to report back in ninety days with a model and implementation plan.

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