



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: November 9, 2010

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TO: Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT: WORKING TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

SUMMARY:

Overview

Human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a plague that is growing rapidly in our region. San Diego ranks 8th nationwide in the incidence of children used in connection with prostitution and pimping, ranking ahead of Las Vegas.

Commercial sexual exploitation is a heinous crime that enslaves young girls for sexual servitude, causing physical and psychological scars on its victims that can last a lifetime. Sex trafficking represents the second largest and fastest growing criminal enterprise nationwide, and has also become the second largest source of income for our local gangs.

In order to bring this important issue to the forefront, the Sheriff, District Attorney, members of the San Diego Police Department Vice Squad, and a lieutenant from the National City Police Department will provide a presentation to the board today. In addition, the Board is being asked to include in the Board's 2011 Legislative Program proposals for legislation strengthening penalties for crimes related to human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

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Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR JACOB, SHERIFF GORE AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY DUMANIS

1. Receive a presentation on human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
2. Direct the CAO to include in the Board's 2011 Legislative Program proposals for legislation strengthening penalties for crimes related to human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.]

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a plague that is growing rapidly in our region. San Diego ranks 8th nationwide in the incidence of children used in connection with prostitution and pimping, ranking ahead of Las Vegas.

Commercial sexual exploitation is a heinous crime that enslaves young girls for sexual servitude, causing physical and psychological scars on its victims that can last a lifetime. Sex trafficking represents the second largest and fastest growing criminal enterprise nationwide, and has also become the second largest source of income for our local gangs.

This Board of Supervisors has a record of making public safety a top priority, especially the safety of our children. Current State law falls woefully short in addressing the severity of this atrocious crime. Maximum sentences today allow for only 6 years in prison for the pimping of an adult victim and 8 years for the pimping of a minor less than 16 years of age. These sentences also carry the possibility of being reduced by 50% if the inmate demonstrates "good behavior" while in prison.

We must urge our State legislators to enact laws that increase penalties for the pimping of adults and minors, enhance the ability to prosecute sex trafficking of minors, and provide clearer definitions of human trafficking offenses so that the District Attorney has stronger legal grounds upon which to prosecute.

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Therefore, with the support of Sheriff Bill Gore and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, this action will include in the Board's 2011 Legislative Program proposals for legislation strengthening penalties for crimes related to human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

We urge your support!

Respectfully submitted,

SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB

SHERIFF BILL GORE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BONNIE DUMANIS

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION
NUMBER(S):**
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2, Sheriff and District Attorney

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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