



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** January 11, 2011

**01**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT: STRENGTHENING PUNISHMENT FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (DISTRICT: ALL)**

#### **SUMMARY:**

##### **Overview**

At the November 9, 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting this board unanimously supported a change in state law to strengthen penalties for crimes related to human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. There was also an informative presentation given by law enforcement and the District Attorney's office that highlighted the increasing gang connection to pimping, pandering, and human trafficking.

Pimping, pandering, and human trafficking is increasing at an alarming rate across the country as well as right here in the San Diego region. Criminal street gangs have embraced pimping as "the new crack", rivaling narcotic sales as a major source of funding for many gangs. This heinous crime targets our most vulnerable youth, who are often recruited within the walls of the schools they attend.

Today's action specifies two legislative efforts aimed at enhancing penalties for street gangs that engage in pimping and pandering, as well as for those who engage in pimping and human trafficking activity within or around a school.

##### **Recommendation(s)**

**SUPERVISOR JACOB, SHERIFF GORE, AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY DUMANIS**

1. Sponsor State legislation that adds pimping, pandering, and human trafficking to the list of primary activities outlined in the penal code required to define a criminal street gang.

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2. Sponsor State legislation that would enhance penalties for those convicted of a crime associated with pimping, pandering, and human trafficking on school grounds or within 1000 feet of a school.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

At the November 9, 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting this board unanimously supported a change in state law to strengthen penalties for crimes related to human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. There was also an informative presentation given by law enforcement and the District Attorney's office that highlighted the increasing gang connection to pimping, pandering, and human trafficking.

Pimping, pandering, and human trafficking is increasing at an alarming rate across the country as well as right here in the San Diego region. Criminal street gangs have embraced pimping as "the new crack", rivaling narcotic sales as a major source of funding for many gangs. This heinous crime targets our most vulnerable youth, who are often recruited within the walls of the schools they attend.

Recently, several new hybrid gangs have evolved in San Diego solely for the purpose and profit of pimping. Documented criminal street gangs who have historically been at odds with one another are working side by side due to the large income potential associated with pimping. Although pimping and pandering currently carry mandatory prison sentences, there is no provision in the State penal code that provides enhanced penalties for a criminal street gang connection.

This action would sponsor legislation to add pimping, pandering, and human trafficking to the penal code list of the 33 "primary activities" required to define a criminal street gang. The definition of a criminal street gang triggers enhanced penalties and bail, affects probation and parole conditions, augments law enforcement tools, and affects the way the case is handled by all stakeholders in the system.

Law enforcement is noticing another disturbing trend that involves pimping in and around our schools. Pimping gangs are recruiting from high schools and middle schools, often using the

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same tactics of fear and intimidation to enforce the rules of the “game” and to tear victims away from school and into a life of prostitution.

Currently there is no distinction in the law for pimping crimes that take place in and around our schools. This action would also sponsor a change in State law to enhance penalties for those convicted of crimes associated with prostitution on school grounds or within 1000 feet of a school.

We urge your support!

**Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan**

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB  
Supervisor, District 2

BILL GORE  
Sheriff

BONNIE DUMANIS  
District Attorney

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

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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, Board of Supervisor

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):**    N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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