



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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KENNETH W. SMALL
Chief of Police

August 13, 2012

Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Borris:

Contained herein is the Huntington Beach Police Department response to the findings and recommendations in the Orange County Grand Jury report titled, "Sex Trafficking of Girls" pursuant to Penal Code 933.05(a) and (b).

Findings

F1. I am in agreement with the Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) that more law enforcement training is needed in sex trafficking.

F3. Based on the research of the HTTF, it appears child victims of sex trafficking are often misidentified. I am therefore in agreement that a lack of proper identification of the child's age may result in law enforcement's inability to charge the trafficker/pimp with child related sex trafficking violations.

F4. Based on the research of the HTTF, it appears trafficked minors often flee non-secure shelters. I am in agreement that law enforcement and prosecutors may request detention of a child to protect them from repeated exploitation by pimps.

F5. I am in agreement that filing declarations per Penal Code 1275.1 is a useful tool, which may prevent perpetrators from intimidating and victimizing young girls while the perpetrators remain in custody.

F7. I am in agreement that there is no database available to law enforcement agencies in existence, which is specific to sex trafficking victims. There are however, databases which law enforcement may access while attempting to verify the identity of victims.

Recommendations

R1. This recommendation has been implemented.

I agree with the finding that Police and Sheriff Departments should provide additional training for officers to clarify law enforcement's understanding and awareness of minor sex trafficking of girls.

Rick Serrato, of the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, provided briefing training to Huntington Beach Police Officers in June, 2011. A DVD produced by the same organization has also been made available to our officers.

In addition, there are 18 grant funded trainings regarding human trafficking per year throughout the state. It is my intention to have Vice and Sex Crimes Detectives from the Huntington Beach Police Department attend this course of training during the next year.

R2. This recommendation will not be implemented at this time because it is not reasonable.

In response to the recommendation for the Sheriff's Department, city police departments and responsible Orange County agencies to develop a database for sex trafficking victims, I agree this would be a worthwhile endeavor. However, the Huntington Beach Police Department and likely any other individual law enforcement agency in the county, lacks sufficient resources to implement this recommendation individually. We are however, willing to become part of a collaborative multi-agency effort to explore the creation of such a database.

The above notwithstanding, it is my understanding that the issue of minor sex trafficking is a national and international issue. Mark Nye of the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force advises that victims frequently cross jurisdictional and state lines over great distances to avoid detection. In his experience, minor sex trafficking victims do not typically move from city to city within the County of Orange. It appears there may be little added value in instituting such a localized database. A national or international database would be of much greater use in identifying victims and suspects in minor sex trafficking cases.

R3. This recommendation has been implemented.

The recommendation of using the provisions of California Penal Code 1275.1 more frequently if there is cause to believe the source of bail money for a "pimp" or "john" was illegally obtained has been implemented. The detectives assigned to investigate sex trafficking cases have been directed to consider filing such declarations in all sex trafficking cases.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth W. Small". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a distinct "S" at the end.

Kenneth W. Small
Chief of Police