



SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA

SANDRA HUTCHENS
SHERIFF-CORONER

September 14, 2012

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

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury 2011-2012 Report, "Sex Trafficking of Girls"

Dear Judge Borris:

In accordance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed please find the response to the Orange County Grand Jury 2011-2012 Report, "Sex Trafficking of Girls." If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Sheriff Mark Billings at (714) 647-1833.

Respectfully,

Sandra Hutchens
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Roy B. Baker III, Grand Jury Foreman
Members, Board of Supervisors
Robert Franz, County Executive Officer (Acting)

550 N. FLOWER STREET, P.O. BOX 449, SANTA ANA, CA 92702-0499 (714) 647-1800

*Integrity without compromise, Service above self, Professionalism in the performance of duty,
Vigilance in safeguarding our community*



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
GRAND JURY RESPONSE
SEX TRAFFICKING OF GIRLS



Dear members of the Grand Jury,

The Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) has received and reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury report titled, "Sex Trafficking of Girls." The Orange County Sheriff's Department has reviewed the findings in a collaborative effort with necessary personnel and has prepared the following response.

FINDINGS

Finding 1

The Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) recognized that more law enforcement training is needed in sex trafficking.

Response: Agree with Finding.

Victims and suspects of sex trafficking are often discovered through various law enforcement activities. Training in the recognition, investigation and documentation of sex trafficking is an important component of effective proactive enforcement. Although members of the Orange County Sheriff's Department's Special Victims Unit, Gang Enforcement Team, Narcotic and Vice Details receive specialized training in sex trafficking, there is a need for more broad based training throughout law enforcement.

Finding 3

Child victims of sex trafficking are often misidentified. Due to the lack of proper identification of the child's age, law enforcement agencies may be unable to charge the trafficker/pimp with child related sex trafficking violations.

Response: Agree with Finding.

Identifying child victims of any crime in which a parent/guardian is absent is always a challenge to law enforcement. In cases where a child is the victim of sex trafficking, this task is often exacerbated with victims who may be unwilling to assist law enforcement in their identification. This inability to identify child victims of sex trafficking often inhibits the prosecution of suspects and the protection of victims related to the sex trafficking violations.

Finding 4

Trafficked minors often flee non-secure shelters. Law enforcement and prosecutors may request detention of a child to protect them from repeated exploitation by pimps.

Response: Agree with Finding.

Child victims of sex trafficking often flee non-secured shelters and expose themselves to repeated exploitation by pimps. Victims exhibit this behavior for various reasons including fear of the pimp(s), imputed fear of authority, and fear of losing their relationship with these suspects who provided for their basic needs such as safety, food, and shelter. Also, the pimps often convince the child victim that they are providing for their emotional needs such as love and security. To prevent the trafficked minors from repeated exploitation, law enforcement and prosecutors should have the ability to request their detention.



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
GRAND JURY RESPONSE
SEX TRAFFICKING OF GIRLS



Finding 5

Penal Code section 1275.1 allows the courts to set conditions on bail, including presenting probable cause that the bail money (or the security for the bond) was illegally obtained. This provision allows law enforcement and the courts to hold the perpetrators, which may keep them from intimidating and victimizing young girls once released.

Response: Agree with Finding.

Sex trafficking of child victims has been proven to be a profitable illegal industry. As cited in the "FACTS" section of the Grand Jury report, victims of sex trafficking can produce between \$1,000 to \$3,000 dollars per day in revenue for the pimps involved in the victim's exploitation. Having knowledge of the large amounts of proceeds being generated, the use of Penal Code section 1275.1 would allow the courts to hold a hearing to verify the source of monies that would be potentially used for the bail/bond of a suspect. This would most likely result in the continued incarceration of pimps, prohibiting them from further exploitation of these child victims.

Finding 7

Currently no data base is available to law enforcement agencies to check and identify victims of sex trafficking.

Response: Agree with Finding.

Law enforcement often has a hard time identifying child victims of sex trafficking. Proper identification of the child is often unavailable and results in their misidentification

(F.7-Findings continued)

during law enforcement contacts. The proper documentation and ability to identify child victims of sex trafficking would greatly improve the ability to determine the level of assistance needed once the victim has been identified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department's Training Division has collected information regarding the sex trafficking of girls and has prepared various departmental training. This training material has been implemented in three areas. First, an eight hour block of classroom training is available through the Sheriff's Training Division. Additionally, the training division has placed a fifteen minute human trafficking video on the Sheriff's Intranet, which is accessible to all department employees. And lastly, training materials have been prepared that will be presented at all custody and operations shift briefings. This training will be used to equip all sworn members of the department with the understanding and awareness of this crime. This will allow personnel the ability to more effectively identify child victims of sex trafficking and their pimps.



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
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Recommendation 2

The Sheriff's Department, city police departments and responsible Orange County agencies should develop a data base using a single term such as "Minor Sex Trafficking" to allow the trafficked victims to be systematically tracked with the result of a proper identification and status as a victim of crime. A consistent label for the crime would allow multiple agencies, communities and regions to research and intervene in a single coordinated effort.

Response: *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.*

The disclosure of information regarding the identity of victims of sex offenses, juveniles, and specifically victims of human trafficking, is restricted and prohibited by various codes (penal, government). The systematic tracking and collection of such data to allow multiple agencies, communities and regions access would raise legal concerns. In recognizing the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) as being the law enforcement entity most involved in this specialized area of enforcement, it may be reasonable for the task force to collect data. That is something that would appear to require legal review.

Recommendation 3

Law enforcement agencies and district attorneys should consider using the provisions of California Penal Code section 1275.1 more frequently if they have cause to believe that the source of bail money for a "pimp" or "john" was illegally obtained.

Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is aware of the provisions afforded in California Penal Code section 1275.1 and often uses those provisions during the arrest of subjects involved in the sales of narcotics and/or any other crime which would most likely result in excessive proceeds from the activity. Sheriff Department personnel will consider the use of Penal Code section 1275.1 in all cases regarding the sex trafficking of girls if they have cause to believe the source of bail money was illegally obtained. Additionally, the use of Penal Code section 1275.1 will be included in the upcoming training indicated above.