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January 30, 2024

BPC #24-011

The Honorable City Council  
City of Los Angeles, Room 395  
c/o City Clerk's Office  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, January 30, 2024, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Munoz".

REBECCA MUNOZ  
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

27-011  
REVIEWED *[Signature]* 1/25/24  
RICHARD M. TEFANK DATE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 10, 2024  
11.2

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE the attached Fact Sheet in response to the Los Angeles City Council’s request regarding Human Trafficking Resources (Council File No. 23-1046).
2. That the Board TRANSMITS this report to the Los Angeles City Council.

**DISCUSSION**

Attached is the Los Angeles Police Department’s analysis of resources allocated for victims of human trafficking. The Department’s role is rescue and referral to either the Department of Children and Family Services or an organization that provides resources for these individuals. This report additionally addresses the augmenting of resources from the Department and these organizations for large-scale events that garner national and international attention.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Commander Bryan Lium, Assistant to the Director, Office of Operations, at (213) 486-0110.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE  
Chief of Police

Attachment

**BOARD OF  
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
Approved *January 30, 2024*  
Secretary *[Signature]*

# FACT SHEET HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

January 10, 2024

**PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to provide a response to the Public Safety Committee. On October 24, 2023, the City Council adopted the Public Safety Committee report (Council File No. 23-1046). The Committee tasked the Los Angeles Police Department with providing an analysis of existing resources and ways to augment resources to assist individuals who have been victims of human trafficking. Human trafficking tends to increase when global events bring large audiences together. Given the City's history of hosting events that draw national and international attention, it is essential to identify resources that can provide daily assistance and determine how they can be utilized to better support victims during such large-scale events.

**BACKGROUND.** Human trafficking is described as the commercial exploitation of persons for sex or labor. Traffickers often prey on individuals who are living below the poverty line, frequently unemployed or underemployed, and who may lack access to social safety nets, predominantly women and children. Victims are often lured with false promises of good jobs and better lives, then forced to work under brutal and inhuman conditions. It usually involves instances where the trafficker uses force, fear, or coercion on the victim.

### **Department Resources**

Currently, the investigative responsibility for human trafficking investigations is either the bureaus or geographic Area Vice Units. Upon discovery of a human trafficking victim, the Department provides the rescue and referral to outside resources in the form of organizations that assist survivors of human trafficking.

All Department resources assigned to human trafficking are augmented ahead of large-scale events to offset the demand for trafficked individuals. The Department, as a member of the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, uses its resources to work in collaboration with several other law enforcement agencies and non-government-based community organizations. Ahead of large-scale events, such as the Super Bowl, they work to rescue victims ahead of these events and provide substantial enforcement before and throughout their duration.

### **Operations-South Bureau (OSB) and Operations-Valley Bureau (OVB)**

Both OSB and OVB retain a Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF). These bureau HTTFs are responsible for:

- Investigating violations of pimping, pandering, prostitution, and human trafficking of an organized nature;
- Assisting Area Vice units, upon request, with operations specifically targeting the crime of human trafficking;
- Maintaining liaison with local and federal law enforcement agencies;
- Ongoing participation in local and federal task forces that target the crime of human trafficking; and,
- Maintaining liaison with the City Attorney's Office, District Attorney's Office, and federal prosecutorial agencies.

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Operations-Central Bureau (OCB) and Operations-West Bureau (OWB)

Presently, OCB and OWB utilize their Vice Units to combat human trafficking. Due to their specialized enforcement directed at issues involving pimping, pandering, and prostitution, officers working in this role are the most likely to encounter victims of human trafficking. If a victim comes forward during an operation, generally for prostitution, the investigation then shifts into a rescue and human trafficking investigation. The survivor is taken to the station and the Vice officers can contact either the OSB or OVB Human Trafficking Task Forces to assist, if resources are available, or to gain advisement.

West bureau has one officer dedicated specifically to human trafficking investigations and task forces. The officer works in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The responsibilities for this position include:

- Investigations involving federal crimes of production/possession/distribution of child pornography, extortion, torture, and human trafficking;
- Assisting with out-of-state investigations;
- Follow up on FBI tips/leads;
- Execution of search warrants;
- Liaison between FBI and human trafficking for OWB;
- Federal prosecution of state cases; and,
- Filing cases that do not meet the federal threshold with the District Attorney's Office.

**Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD)**

The CIFD advised that in 2018, the City initiated funding for shelters dedicated to supporting survivors of human trafficking. One of the organizations that benefited from this funding is the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), which operates an emergency shelter, a transitional shelter, and Survivors First, a program providing supportive housing for survivors seeking refuge from human trafficking. The CAST is funded to support 54 survivors of human trafficking annually through Emergency or Transitional Shelter.

In 2021, CIFD launched the Survivor First program, which provides housing and flexible funding to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. This program is one of the first initiatives of its kind. The CAST offers housing-related assistance for up to 40 survivors or families in need. This support covers rental arrears, rent, deposits, education, employment, and other necessary costs to help survivors remain housed. The program was designed to provide essential resources, including financial assistance, for securing and retaining permanent housing for survivors. The goal of the program is to help survivors achieve stability and rebuild their lives after experiencing trauma.

The General Manager of CIFD has submitted a request to augment resources for the upcoming Olympics. The budget resources will be utilized to provide more emergency and transitional housing, a resource that is limited among organizations. Additionally, this will help educate the public about human trafficking ahead of the event and make resources for victims more widely known.

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### External Resources

Victims of human trafficking are either referred to resources through a Department entity or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The organizations provide programs and assistance to these victims to help them regain their freedom and begin the healing and recovery process. The organizations below are resources the Department works with when a victim of human trafficking is rescued.

#### Journey Out

Based in Van Nuys, this organization assists both adult and juvenile victims of human trafficking. Their Crisis Response Team will respond after notification from the Department and provide crisis intervention, case management, survivor mentorship, and wraparound resources. They then offer emergency shelter and, based on availability, provide long-term housing. If the survivor wishes to travel to a place outside of Los Angeles, back home, or to trusted friends or family, Journey Out can provide travel assistance. Should the individual choose to stay in the area, this organization has vocational programs and therapy as well.

The representative from Journey Out advised that they pre-plan for large-scale events garnering national and international attention. Prior to the event, they increased outreach and education along with increased staffing for services during the event.

#### Run 2 Rescue

This faith-based organization assists victims of all ages. Upon receiving a request for help, they will arrive to provide the survivor with clothing and a backpack filled with toiletries and other necessities. If they have the capacity, they can also offer emergency shelter to adults for up to 30 days. During this time, they provide trauma-informed support to help stabilize the survivor, making them a strong candidate for transitional housing after the 30 days.

Run 2 Rescue offers comprehensive services to support juvenile survivors. Once rescued, they are assigned caseworkers who are not county-committed, meaning that they will stay assigned to the juvenile regardless of location of placement. After being rescued, these young survivors are reunited with their families. Alternatively, they are provided with orphan care until they reach the age of 18. Upon reaching the age of 18, they become eligible for transitional care, college tuition assistance, financial planning, vehicle purchase assistance, and long-term housing.

In the past, the Department of Homeland Security has contacted Run 2 Rescue ahead of operations in anticipation of events that garner national attention. To assist, Run 2 Rescue ensured they had additional resources available to receive rescued victims.

#### Vista Del Mar Children and Family Services

Working in conjunction with DCFS, Vista Del Mar utilizes prevention and intervention services focused on juveniles who have been, or are at risk of becoming, victims of human trafficking. The organization operates in the Department geographic Areas of Central, Rampart, and Hollenbeck. Once contacted by DCFS or law enforcement, a representative responds within an hour to meet with the juvenile, and a backpack is provided containing toiletries and essential items.

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The juvenile is then provided emergency shelter, placed into the foster system, or reunited with family. Their organization will continue to work with the survivor without any deadline on assistance with trauma-informed support for them and their parents/foster parents. The DCFS provided funding to Vista Del Mar on October 1, 2023. This allowed the organization's hotline to offer immediate resources to juveniles who call for assistance, prior to a DCFS case being opened.

This organization has not had to augment resources in the past, however advised that with proper notification they could. This would involve ensuring capacity for their emergency shelter is available and increased deployment of their personnel to respond to rescued juveniles.

Saving Innocence

This Los Angeles-based organization provides aid to juvenile victims of human trafficking. Once rescued and referred by DCFS, Saving Innocence can provide reunification with family, a foster program with vetted families, and education. Once the individual becomes an adult, they assist with transitional housing and vocational programs.

Saving Innocence is a member of the Southern California Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. During the Super Bowl, they augmented resources by ensuring they provided supplemental capacity for victims and being on-site to assist with any victims that may arise as a part of the joint operation.

Zoe International

This organization is contracted with Los Angeles County's DCFS to provide 24-7 crisis response. Operating in the North Los Angeles County area, they have become a resource for survivors rescued by officers working in OVB. Once the child is in DCFS' custody, a social worker contacts this organization and they can respond within 90 minutes of being notified.

When law enforcement agencies conduct task forces focused on human trafficking, Zoe International can be on-site to provide victim advocacy services to any child who is recovered. This organization then helps the child to return safely to their home, foster care, or an emergency shelter. They subsequently provide ongoing victim advocacy services, for children and their families, upon rescue from trafficking or when a social worker suspects a child is being trafficked or at risk of being trafficked.

**CONCLUSION.** In closing, the Department's role pertaining to resources for victims of human trafficking is rescue and referral. All of the organizations that rescued individuals are referred to work closely through a network and additional resources to ensure these individuals receive the assistance they need. The Department and several of these organizations belong to the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force and augment resources ahead of large events that would cause national and international interest.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to assisting the victims of human trafficking and reducing the occurrence of human trafficking.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Rodriguez – Park):

1. INSTRUCT the Chief, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD); and, REQUEST the Board of Police Commissioners (Board), with assistance of the Community Investment For Families Department and the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to report on existing resources, and ways to augment resources, to help individuals that have been victims of Human Trafficking.
2. INSTRUCT the Chief, LAPD; and, REQUEST the Board to report on existing resources, and ways to increase resources, to help reduce the occurrence of Human Trafficking throughout the City; and in particular, areas of the City that historically received less resources to combat this issue.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On October 10, 2023, your Committee considered a Motion (Rodriguez – Park) relative to assisting the victims of human trafficking and reducing the occurrence of human trafficking. According to the Motion, Los Angeles has a long history of hosting national and international events; which continues to grow, make investments and draw an even larger number of events. Beginning in 2019, the City and region has hosted the following major events: The Breeder's Cup, NCAA Men's Basketball West Regional, MLB All-Star Game, College Football Playoff, the Super Bowl and the US Open.

Additionally, the Los Angeles area attracts large-scale musicians including Harry Styles, Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, and Bad Bunny. These shows attract people from all the region and beyond. In the coming years, the City will host the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympic Games. Human Trafficking is a global issue that is estimated to be a \$150,000,000,000 industry. Moreover, human trafficking activities increase when there are events that bring a global audience together. With Los Angeles being the center of American Culture, these types of events can make vulnerable residents victims of predators trying to take advantage of those experiencing hard times. Recently, the LAPD has been focusing on areas of the City where Human Trafficking has historically been an issue. In 2023, the LAPD has made over 650 arrests for Human Trafficking and helped rescue nearly 50 victims of human trafficking. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Public Safety Committee

<b>COUNCILMEMBER</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
LEE:	YES
McOSKER:	YES
PARK:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	YES

ARL

10/10/23

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is the epicenter of American Culture. As a true global City, we attract people from all over the United States and from countries all over the world.

Los Angeles has a long history of hosting national and international events; which continues to grow, make investments and draw an even larger number of events. Beginning in 2019, the City and region has hosted the following major events: The Breeder's Cup, NCAA Men's Basketball West Regional, MLB All-Star Game, College Football Playoff, the Super Bowl and the U.S. Open. Additionally, the Los Angeles area attracts large-scale musicians including Harry Styles, Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, and Bad Bunny. These shows attract people from all the region and beyond. In the coming years, the City will host the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympic Games.

Human Trafficking is a global issue that is estimated to be a \$150,000,000,000 industry. Moreover, human trafficking activities increase when there are events that bring a global audience together. With Los Angeles being the center of American Culture, these types of events can make our vulnerable residents victims of predators trying to take advantage of those experiencing hard times.

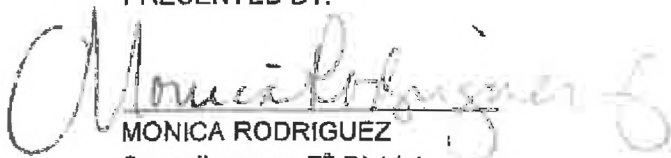
Recently, the Police Department (LAPD) has been focusing on areas of the City where Human Trafficking has historically been an issue. In 2023, the Police Department made over 650 arrests for Human Trafficking and helped rescue nearly 50 victims of human trafficking.

As a City, we must ensure that our most vulnerable residents are safe and can be helped when they have become victims of predators seeking to keep them in a cycle of violence and poverty.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council requests the Chief of Police and the Police Commission, with assistance of the Community Investment For Families Department and the City Administrative Officer, to report on existing resources, and ways to augment resources, to help individuals that have been victims of Human Trafficking.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the Chief of Police and the Police Commission report on existing resources, and ways to increase resources, to help reduce the occurrence of Human Trafficking throughout the City; and in particular, areas of the City that historically received less resources to combat this issue.

PRESENTED BY:

  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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SEP 26 2023