



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised March 2016)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 1/26/17
Agenda Item #: R.1
Est. Start Time: 9:30 am
Date Submitted: 1/10/17

Agenda Title: **Proclaiming January 2017 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.

Requested

Meeting Date: January 19,2017 **Time Needed:** 20 minutes

Department: Community Justice **Division:** Crime Victims Unit

Contact(s): Natalie Weaver

Phone: 503-988-8371 **Ext.** **I/O Address:** B503/250

Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Natalie Weaver, Collaboration Specialist Sex Trafficking, DCJ Crime Victims Unit; Rose-Ellen Bak, Divison Co-Director for DCHS Youth and Family Services; Dennis Morrow, Executive Director, Janus Youth

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

We respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Proclamation declaring January 2017 Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Multnomah County.

In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the CSEC Collaboration and its partners will provide an informational briefing on the current and emerging work underway to address sex trafficking in Multnomah County.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for commercial sexual services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Victims of sex trafficking may be women or men, minors, LGBTQ, US citizens or foreign nationals. Traffickers groom and recruit vulnerable individuals by manipulating the fulfillment of potential unmet needs, whether this is love and affection, basic resources and financial support, etc. Those with past histories of sexual abuse and domestic violence, neglect or otherwise unstable home environment, substance use, homelessness, or who are experiencing other social discrimination are particularly vulnerable and at increased risk of recruitment and exploitation by traffickers.

To maintain control, traffickers use a combination of violence, intimidation, and threats while also leveraging a false romantic or intimate relationship with the victim. The formation of this trauma bond between trafficker and victim can deter efforts in safety and stabilization, because the victim grows exceedingly fearful yet attached to the trafficker and simultaneously, increasingly distrustful of others- including service providers and systems. Additionally, many individuals who have been trafficked experience feelings of terror, isolation, guilt, helplessness, and grief.

To successfully support victims in pathways out of “the Life,” providers must collaborate to offer specialized support and comprehensive case management covering basic needs, housing resources, advocacy and legal navigation, medical and mental health services, as well as life skills and self-sufficiency (education and employment).

Multnomah County has consistently demonstrated its commitment to address this issue through its investment in collaborations across systems and between various sectors. We have taken an extensive three-pronged approach:

- 1) Enhance and expand trauma informed, culturally-responsive services to youth and adult victims of all genders;
- 2) Intensify retribution for traffickers as well as purchasers through coordinated law enforcement efforts;
- 3) Increase education aimed at prevention and civic engagement.

Our multi-stakeholder collaboration has been nationally recognized. Participation in this collaboration includes:

- Multnomah County Department of Community Justice: Crime Victims’ Services Unit and Parole & Probation
- Multnomah County Department of County Human Services: Youth and Family Services Division program contracts with Janus Youth and Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) contracts
- Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office: Human Trafficking attorneys and advocate
- Multnomah County Health Department: Lifeworks NW New Options for Women (NOW) program contract
- Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office: Jail Intelligence Sergeant
- Portland Police Bureau: Human Trafficking Detectives and Sex Trafficking Unit
- State of Oregon Department of Human Services: CSEC-specific unit
- US Attorney’s Office, District of Oregon

Declaring this proclamation promotes further awareness and supports the collaborative work our community is doing in addressing this issue.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

N/A

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

Multnomah County coordinates a collaborative effort to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and sex-trafficking of all individuals, more generally. To make strides in this endeavor includes partners from multiple county departments, nonprofit service providers, prosecution and law enforcement representatives, and the faith community. This committee’s work is ongoing and will continue to promote broad participation among local citizens, organizations, and government agencies.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

/s/ Scott Taylor

Date:

1/10/17