



ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL MINUTES

January 17, 2017

9:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street,
Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council (Council) was convened on January 17, 2017 at 9:05 AM in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Council:

Members Present

Gil Orrantia (Co-Chairperson)	Debbie Johnson
Cindy McCain (Co-Chairperson)	Joseph Kelroy
Allie Bones	Zora Manjencich
Heather Carter	Gary McCarthy
Cara Christ	Greg McKay
Vinny Chulani	Frank Milstead
Doug Coleman	Sheila Polk
Tanya Cordor	Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Jon Eliason	Brian Steele
Joseph Kelroy	Jim Waring
Debbie Johnson	

Members Absent

Nathaniel Brown
Robert Conrad
Tanya Cordor
Carolyn Jones

Staff Present

Debbie Moak
John Raeder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gil Orrantia called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Gil Orrantia welcomed those in attendance and asked the Council members to briefly introduce themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)

Minutes for the December 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz motioned to approve the December 7, 2016 minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by Col. Frank Milstead. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. BACKPAGE.COM SENATE HEARING

Mrs. Cindy McCain discussed the recent Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearing regarding Backpage.com. Mrs. McCain discussed the Senate Committee report, [Backpage.com's Knowing Facilitation of Online Sex Trafficking](#) and noted that Backpage had failed to comply with Senate subpoenas or participate in the investigation. Mrs. McCain also reported that the Backpage owners and legal counsel took the 5th amendment during the hearing. The Senate Report and the hearing lay the grounds for criminal and civil legal action.

5. HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Mr. Orrantia recognized January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and read Governor's Ducey's proclamation.

6. US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Juan Estrada, US Department of Homeland Security (HSI), updated the Council on the HIS Human Trafficking Investigation Strategy. ASAC Estrada stated that the strategy focused on victim-centric investigations, where equal value is placed on the identification and stabilization of victims as the investigation and prosecution of suspects. The strategy also builds capacity through outreach activities, such as providing training to law enforcement and building long-lasting relationships with service providers.

ASAC Estrada reported that During FY16, HSI Phoenix has made 56 criminal arrest, secured 14 indictments, five (5) convictions, six (6) seizures, five (5) administrative arrests and the execution of 18 search warrants associated to human trafficking investigations throughout Arizona. He also provided several case studies from recent investigations in Sells, Flagstaff and Phoenix.

7. MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE INVESTIGATIVE UPDATE

Sergeant Clay Sutherland, Phoenix Police Department, discussed the ongoing efforts to investigate sex trafficking and demand reduction. Sgt. Sutherland discussed two major joint operations that are currently ongoing. He also discussed partnerships with the International Rescue Committee, ASU and Dream Center. The Multi-Jurisdictional Taskforce utilizes grant funds to build community involvement and is working to identify victims and connect them with services.

Sgt. Sutherlin mentioned that basketball is a big draw for traffickers and noted collaborative efforts with the cities are necessary during basketball season. He also mentioned additional focus on massage parlors and pornographic studios.

8. INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE – LABOR TRAFFICKING RESPONSE

Mr. Chris Debreceni, International Rescue Committee (IRC), presented on the IRC's response to labor trafficking in Arizona. He explained that the IRC anti-human trafficking program began operation in 2003 in partnership with City of Phoenix Police Department. The IRC program focuses the trafficking of foreign nationals. In 2016, the IRC provided services to 52 victims of human trafficking.

Mr. Debreceni also educated the Council on the dynamics of labor trafficking. In particular, he discussed recruitment, victim experiences, common industries which exploit trafficking victims and indicators. He noted that Human trafficking victims make an alarmingly high number of consumer goods and food products, imported to the United States and produced domestically. More often than we realize, elements of forced labor may be present within the supply chain of products we buy or the services we pay for. Mr. Debreceni explained that labor trafficking victims suffer from significant physical and psychological impacts from trafficking.

9. ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

Mr. Orrantia announced the completion of the Council's 2016 Annual Report. A copy of the report was provided to each of the members. Mrs. McCain and Mr. Orrantia thanked the members for their continued hard work and dedication.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach and Awareness Committee

Ms. Debbie Johnson updated the Council on the NCAA Final Four awareness efforts.

Policy Committee

Mr. Brian Steele updated the Council on an upcoming sex trafficking services stakeholder process that would be evaluating the delivery of services and disruption of service. Mr. Brian Steele reported that despite continual disruption of services, 200 trafficking specific beds and services have been provided to victims. Mr. Steele asked several survivors from the Dream Center to talk about their experiences.

Jade explained that she had been trafficked when she was 14 years old. She was arrested in Tempe after being in the life for nine years. She encouraged the Council to provide more help and earlier intervention for youth.

Shelby talked about being in the life for four (4) years. She discussed running multiple times from group homes and becoming involved in the criminal justices system. Shelby stated that her judge was the only consistent thing in her life and he helped connect her with resources and the Dream Center.

Afshan stated that she moved to Phoenix when she was 17 and was trafficked through strip clubs and on Backpage. She explained that she would take the blame for her trafficker and was afraid to see him in court. She encouraged the Council to consider video testimony for victims due to the trauma victims encounter when confronting their trafficker.

Training Committee

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz stated that there is a new brochure available for parents on how to discuss human trafficking. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz also mentioned upcoming trainings in Prescott and Flagstaff for CASA volunteers.

11. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Justin Miller announced that on Wednesday February 24th there will be a lecture on how to discuss sex and pornography with your children.

12. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.