

MOTION

CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY, AGING & DISABILITY

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), California has one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the country. In 2021, the NHTH identified 1,334 human trafficking cases in California, with 7 percent of cases involving sex trafficking. Since 2012, Los Angeles County has been identified as one of the nation's high-intensity areas of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. Los Angeles is also a hotspot for labor trafficking, with many migrants falling victim to labor exploitation in industries such as housekeeping, garment manufacturing, and agriculture.

The Council has supported numerous efforts to prevent human trafficking, including enhancing programs and services for victims and survivors of human trafficking and supporting state and federal legislation to reduce human trafficking in the region. However, detecting human trafficking is incredibly challenging, as trafficking occurs through clandestine networks, and victims of trafficking do not often seek assistance or support, due to language barriers, social isolation, and fear of their traffickers and law enforcement.

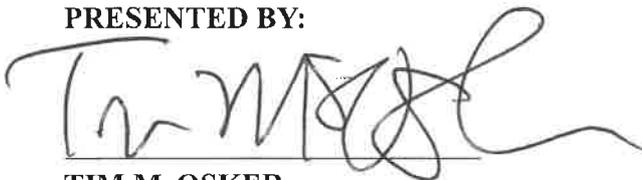
Despite the high number of reported human trafficking cases, the City does not collect data beyond what is collected by law enforcement and departments that provide support and services to victims and survivors. Currently, there is limited research on the prevalence of human trafficking in the City and much of the data is imprecise and not fully representative of the issue. Many local statistics are based on policing priorities, which can overrepresent certain forms of human trafficking and populations. Better data is needed to understand the magnitude and trends of human trafficking in the City to inform policy-making in the future.

A baseline study on the prevalence of human trafficking, including the annual number of victims, the nature of the trafficking (e.g. sex or labor exploitation), demographic information of the victims, and concentration of victims in particular geographic areas is needed. According to reports from the Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Loyola Marymount University, a comprehensive study on the prevalence of human trafficking in the City would cost approximately \$1 million and take three years to complete.

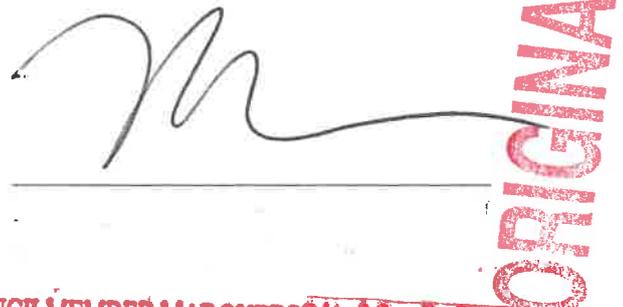
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Community Investment for Families Department to report on the feasibility of conducting or contracting with organizations to perform a baseline study of the prevalence of human trafficking in the City.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer report with potential funding sources, including grant funds, philanthropy, or other sources, for the baseline study

PRESENTED BY:



TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District



COUNCILMEMBER MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON,
8th District

SECONDED BY:



APR 17 2024

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ORIGINAL