

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Children's Law Center of California

**Date Submitted:** 04/23/2024 02:31 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0446

**Comments for Public Posting:** April 22, 2024 Los Angeles City Council Los Angeles City Hall 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90015 Re: Support for CF: 24-0446 - Human Trafficking / Baseline Study / Sex and Labor Exploitation / National Human Trafficking Hotline Dear Councilmembers of the Los Angeles City Council: On behalf of Children's Law Center of California ("CLC"), I write to express our support of CF: 24-0446- Human Trafficking/Baseline Study/Sex and Labor Exploitation/National Human Trafficking Hotline moved by Councilmember Tim McOsker and Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson and seconded by Councilmember Imelda Padilla. We are grateful for their leadership in moving this motion and appreciate the Los Angeles City Council's willingness to address the important issue of conducting a city-wide human trafficking prevalence study that looks both at sex and labor trafficking. By way of background, CLC is the largest nonprofit, public interest law firm in the nation dedicated solely to protecting the rights of children. Our committed attorneys. We represent the approximately 20,000 children under the jurisdiction of the dependency court in Los Angeles County, many of whom are or have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation. As the motion states, currently, the research on human trafficking in the City of Los Angeles is insufficient and the available data, often skewed by law enforcement priorities, does not accurately depict the problem's scope. The only other data point we have on human trafficking in Los Angeles is the alarming statistic that in the 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count 20% of unhoused individuals in the City of Los Angeles self-identified as victims of human trafficking,[1] To effectively address and develop policies on this issue, a need for more precise and comprehensive holistic data is essential. CLC believes that providing the \$1 million dollars to fund such a study is a critical step for the City to address and understand the needs of trafficking survivors. The baseline data from this study will give Los Angeles the ability to invest appropriately in (1) prevention strategies; (2) intervention and outreach strategies and; (3) specialized service needs for survivors. Therefore, this prevalence study is crucial in ensuring that the city is deploying its resources in a manner that is both strategic and effective. Thus, we strongly urge the City Council and members of the committees

this motion passes through to support this motion. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Julie McCormick, Senior Policy Attorney

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Panida Rzonca

**Date Submitted:** 04/18/2024 10:36 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0446

**Comments for Public Posting:** California continues to see the highest number of human trafficking cases in the country, often disproportionately affecting communities such as the Indigenous, Black, Asian, and LGBTQ communities. Regions such as Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area have some of the highest intensity of child sex trafficking in the country. Although broadly considered a pervasive issue, data regarding the nature and scope of human trafficking is limited. Currently, there are no studies that exist that consider the prevalence of both labor and sex trafficking in California. There's also a lack of consistent definition to the term "trafficking" to document the trend and estimate the scope of trafficking. To combat human trafficking, we must invest in accurate data that measures the scope and scale of trafficking, establish a consistent foundation to monitor and predict future trends, and meaningfully engage with survivors and other experts to inform better policies moving forward.