

Communication from Public

Name: Anabel Martinez

Date Submitted: 04/18/2024 11:26 AM

Council File No: 24-0446

Comments for Public Posting: April 18, 2024 Los Angeles City Council Los Angeles City Hall 200 N. Spring St. 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 Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SJI), I write to express our full 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 second 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. SJI is an evidenced based and community-informed think tank that intentionally fills gaps in human trafficking prevention with an intersectional approach through systemic change and policy innovation. SJI focuses it's policy work under 5 pillars: Government Accountability, Racial Justice, Immigrant Justice, Climate Justice and Economic Justice. SJI believes that a prevalence study is needed in Los Angeles City in order to move forward data driven solutions to addressing the complex issue of human trafficking. Thus, SJI is in support of this motion. As the motion states, currently, the research on human trafficking in LA City 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 LA City is the alarming statistic that 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. SJI 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 ALL trafficking survivors. The baseline data from this study will give Los Angeles the ability to: (1) invest appropriately in prevention strategies; (2) invest appropriately in intervention and outreach strategies and; (3) invest appropriately in 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. Kind Regards, Anabel Martinez, Esq. Senior Policy Counsel Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative Loyola Law School



April 18, 2024

Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
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 Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SJI), I write to express our full 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 second 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.

SJI is an evidenced based and community-informed think tank that intentionally fills gaps in human trafficking prevention with an intersectional approach through systemic change and policy innovation. SJI focuses its policy work under 5 pillars: Government Accountability, Racial Justice, Immigrant Justice, Climate Justice and Economic Justice. SJI believes that a prevalence study is needed in Los Angeles City in order to move forward data driven solutions to addressing the complex issue of human trafficking. Thus, SJI is in support of this motion.

As the motion states, currently, the research on human trafficking in LA City 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 LA City 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. SJI 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 ALL trafficking survivors. The baseline data from this study will give Los Angeles the ability to: (1) invest

^[1] Based on the 2022 Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority: The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Data- LA City



appropriately in prevention strategies; (2) invest appropriately in intervention and outreach strategies and; (3) invest appropriately in 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.

Kind Regards,

Anabel Martinez, Esq.
Senior Policy Counsel
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative
Loyola Law School