



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2014

Contact: Lisa Richardson 213-361-6980

Email: lrichardson@bos.lacounty.gov

Or

Lorenza Muñoz, 213-458-6279

Email: lmunoz@bos.lacounty.gov

Supervisors Support Posting Information to Help Victims of Human Trafficking

Victims of human trafficking may soon see posters with hotline numbers throughout Los Angeles County to help them escape their captors.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed Tuesday to look into how specific businesses and other establishments like bars, truck stops, massage parlors and emergency rooms, will be required to post a notice that contains information on sex trafficking with a hotline number for victims. Los Angeles County already has an awareness campaign with signage on all Metro buses and trains, as well as hundreds of billboards across the county.

Human trafficking is a growing enterprise estimated to be a \$32 billion international crime industry. In Los Angeles, it is a business increasingly run by gangs, with approximately 3,000 Los Angeles County children that are being trafficked for sex.

Senate Bill 1193, which mandates that certain businesses post the hotline number in a visible place, was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2012. The City of Los Angeles and other areas in California are already implementing it.

“We need to do everything in our power to get the message out to the public so that together we can say our children are not for sale,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who co-authored the motion with Supervisor Don Knabe. “This is a sick and heinous crime being perpetrated on our children. We must let the victims know we care and we must let the pimps and Johns know we are coming after them.”

Supervisor Knabe noted that the poster program for sex trafficking victims is similar to the county’s Safe Surrender program, which has so far, saved 115 newborns from abandonment.

“Like Safe Surrender, Senate Bill 1193 is a lifesaving law already on the books that needs to be enforced here in Los Angeles County,” said Supervisor Knabe. “Sex trafficking is a national crisis that needs our fullest attention. We need to be vigilant in cracking down on the scumbag pimps who sexually exploit our children, some who are as young as 12-years-old, for money.”

The board expects to have an implementation plan presented to them within 30 days as well as information related to specified nonprofit organizations that provide services to victims and those working in support of the elimination of slavery and human trafficking.

#####