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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

Adopt a Resolution in Support of the California Welfare Directors Association's Budget Proposal to Dedicate \$20.3 Million of General Funds for Prevention, Intervention, and Support Services for Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Would Recommend \$14.3 Million in General Funds for Successive Years

WHEREAS, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a serious problem in the City of Oakland, with an estimated 100 children per day trapped in sexual exploitation on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, children who are forced to do sex work are rape victims who require comprehensive services in order to re-enter into society in order to address their trauma with mental health services, to reintegrate them into the workforce or an education setting, as well as to reunify them with their families or to relocate them to a safer environment; and

WHEREAS, there is strong belief that child welfare should have primary responsibility for protecting and serving these children, as well as coordinating services, however, these agencies needs additional funding for the strategic development and coordination of services, as well as system-wide training; and

WHEREAS, CWDA proposes that social workers need to be identifiers of CSEC and thus must receive training in order to more appropriately recognize risk factors, warning signs that a child that is being trafficked, and intervention strategies; and

WHEREAS, counties lack the capacity to provide enhanced supervision and support to protect victims through the regular foster care program, thus new services need to be identified or developed to provide safe and supportive immediate and long-term shelter to CSEC victims; and

WHEREAS, the California Welfare Directors Association submitted a budget proposal, which would allow for California child welfare agencies to build capacity in local to serve victims of CSEC, as a means to target the resources needed to combat this heinous crime; and

WHEREAS, the CWDA proposal would allocate \$20.3 million dollars in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 for enhanced development of prevention, intervention, and support services as well as necessary trainings; and

WHEREAS, the CWDA would propose \$14.3 million dollars for successive years for continued prevention, intervention, and support services; and

WHEREAS, this proposal is supported by several service providers of CSEC victims, many prominent children's policy organizations, the Service Employees Union International (SEIU), the California State Association of Counties, the Alameda County Social Service Agency, and the Counties of Napa, San Francisco, and Orange; and

WHEREAS, the California State Budget's General Fund is over \$96 billion dollars, of which, the funds proposed by CWDA for CSEC services merely represent .02% of the general fund; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council enforces the budget proposal made by the California Welfare Directors Association to allocate \$20.3 million dollars in FY 14-15 and \$14.3 million dollars in successive years to support victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST.

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California