

2015 APR 10 AM 4:03

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY
AND COUNCILMEMBER ANNIE CAMPBELL WASHINGTON

ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL 20 - 26 AS SEXUALLY EXPLOITED MINORS AWARENESS WEEK IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND, AND CALLING ON OAKLANDERS TO BE AWARE THAT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IS A TRAGIC FORM OF CHILD ABUSE AND URGING ARDENT COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO END THIS EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ALL PEOPLE.

WHEREAS, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a form of modern-day slavery requiring greater public awareness, increased services, enhanced education, and City leadership in order to be eradicated in the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations defines sexual exploitation as: "any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another"; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has defined human trafficking as: "all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor, or other debt bondage"; and

WHEREAS, the International Labor Organization estimates there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally and that 5.5 million of the victims are children; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide, according to the International Labor Organization; and

WHEREAS, since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) reports receiving 11,294 tips from residents in California on potential trafficking cases through their hotline, whose number is 1-888-373-7888; and

WHEREAS, according to the NHTRC, there were 912 human trafficking cases reported in California in 2014 and 685 of these cases were sexual exploitation cases; and

WHEREAS, the WestCoast Children's Clinic, a renowned service provider located in Oakland, states that the FBI have deemed the Bay Area a "High Intensity Child Prostitution Area" and around 100 youth are sold for sex each night in Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the WestCoast Children's Clinic, who directly serves minors who have been sexually exploited as well as researches the issue of sexual exploitation, conducted a study in 2012 to analyze common characteristics amongst their clients; and

WHEREAS, over 75 percent of WestCoast's clients reported being abused or neglected before being coerced into sex work; and

WHEREAS, most children at risk for being exploited have experienced emotional or physical trauma in the family, are in foster care or are runaways; and

WHEREAS, the WestCoast study found most victims have been exploited for at least two years, and additionally, most are aware they are being exploited and have expressed a desire to leave; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Oakland Resolution 84456 in June 2013 created the Oakland CSEC Task Force which was charged with providing education, raising awareness, advocating for resources, and supporting policy change to aid victims of sexual exploitation and prevent the continuation of the tragic crime; and

WHEREAS, Oakland is unwaveringly committed to the health, safety, and well-being of all its youth and for youth everywhere; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: the City of Oakland hereby declares April 20 - 26 as Sexually Exploited Minors Awareness Week in the City of Oakland; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: the Oakland City Council highly encourages Oaklanders to become well-informed of the risk factors and warning signs of sexual exploitation, attend sexual exploitation awareness events, and to raise this important issue to the forefront of their consciousness.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID AND PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

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