



To: County Council
From: Jessica Fitzwater, Council Member District 4
Date: November 1, 2016
Subject: Human Trafficking Task Force

Issue: Is it necessary to establish a Human Trafficking task force for the purpose of fact-finding to make recommendations to the County Council and County Executive?

Background: Currently Frederick County has no legislation specifically regarding Human Trafficking. Surrounding Counties have seen their number of human trafficking cases grow since 2010, warranting an increase in resources to address this issue. Due to the County's location along the I-70 corridor, its proximity to two international airports, casinos, and tourist attractions including Washington, DC, Frederick County is located within a geographic zone where human trafficking occurs. Further, the state has passed and considered several bills seeking to offer additional protections to potential victims while increasing penalties for perpetrators. These factors indicate the County may benefit from studying this issue.

What would new resolution do?: The proposed resolution would create a task force to study the issues associated with human trafficking in Frederick County including educating the public about human trafficking, identifying and serving victims of human trafficking, and increasing prosecution of traffickers. The resolution provides that the task force consist of several members of local and state agencies and organizations for the purpose of making recommendations to the County Council and the County Executive regarding the following:

1. Developing coordinated anti-human trafficking efforts in Frederick County through community protocol development, extensive community outreach, proactive investigation, training, intelligence sharing, and the formation of partnerships between law enforcement and non-governmental organizations;
2. Identifying vulnerable populations and increasing identification of human trafficking victims in Frederick County, including domestic and transnational victims of both sex and labor trafficking;
3. Aiding in the establishment of a provider network to provide comprehensive services to victims of trafficking; and



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY COUNCIL

*Jessica Fitzwater
Council Member District 4*

4. Increasing identification and prosecution of all parties supporting the organized efforts that engage in human trafficking to include traffickers, suppliers, transporters, advertisers and demand elements.

Timeline: The task force shall present its findings and recommendations to the County Council and the County Executive on or before February 28, 2018.

A RESOLUTION, creating a task force to study the issues associated with human trafficking in Frederick County including educating the public about human trafficking, identifying and serving victims of human trafficking, and increasing prosecution of traffickers.

Introduced By:

Council Member Jessica Fitzwater (District 4)

Introduction Date:

Adopted/Rejected/Withdrawn: _____

WHEREAS, trafficking is the use of force, threat of force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide or obtain any person for labor or commercial sex or to cause a person under 18 to engage in a commercial sex act; and

WHEREAS, every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States, and it is estimated that human trafficking is a \$32 billion per year industry, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a hidden crime, as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, due to the County's location along the I-70 corridor, its proximity to two international airports, as well as casinos, and tourist attractions including Washington, DC, Frederick County is located within a geographic zone where human trafficking occurs; and

WHEREAS, in Counties surrounding Frederick County, the number of human trafficking cases has grown since 2010, warranting an increase in resources to address human trafficking issues; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland has passed and considered a number of bills that seek to offer additional protections to potential victims while increasing penalties for perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to establish a collaborative body of organizations in Frederick County to identify consistent and sustained efforts to combat this modern day slavery, locate available grant funding from the Department of Justice, and develop recommendations for a victims services network to free and assist victims of both sex trafficking and domestic worker trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Section 203 of the Frederick County Charter authorizes the Council to appoint special ad hoc committees solely for the purpose of inquiry and fact finding.

EXPLANATION:

BOLD CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO THE BILL.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from the bill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, that a task force is hereby established to make recommendations to the County Council and the County Executive regarding the following:

1. Developing coordinated anti-human trafficking efforts in Frederick County through community protocol development, extensive community outreach, proactive investigation, training, intelligence sharing, and the formation of partnerships between law enforcement and non-governmental organizations;
2. Identifying vulnerable populations and increasing identification of human trafficking victims in Frederick County, including domestic and transnational victims of both sex and labor trafficking;
3. Aiding in the establishment of a provider network to provide comprehensive services to victims of trafficking; and
4. Increasing identification and prosecution of all parties supporting the organized efforts that engage in human trafficking to include traffickers, suppliers, transporters, advertisers and demand elements.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the following members:

1. Director of Frederick County's Human Relations Department or the Director's designee;
2. The State's Attorney for Frederick County or the State's Attorney's designee;
3. Frederick City Chief of Police or Chief's designee;
4. Frederick County Sheriff or Sheriff's designee;
5. A representative from the Frederick County Commission for Women;
6. A representative from the Frederick County Human Relations Commission;
7. Director of the Child Advocacy Center or Director's designee;
8. Director of the local State Social Services office or Director's designee;
9. Frederick County's Health Officer or Health Officer's designee;
10. A representative from the State of Maryland Task Force on Human Trafficking;
11. A representative from Frederick County Public Schools;
12. Two representatives from non-profit organizations;
13. A representative from the faith-based community;
14. A representative from Frederick Memorial Hospital;
15. A representative from the Frederick County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League
16. A member of the Frederick County Council; and
17. A member of the Frederick County State Delegation

EXPLANATION:

BOLD CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO THE BILL.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from the bill.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall present its findings and recommendations to the County Council and the County Executive on or before February 28, 2018.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council Chief of Staff shall assign appropriate staff to assist the Human Trafficking Task Force in its work.

The undersigned hereby certifies that this Resolution was approved and adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2016.

ATTEST:

County Council of
Frederick County, Maryland

Ragen L. Cherney
Council Chief of Staff

By:
Bud Otis, President

EXPLANATION:

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