



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Police Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Captain Bill Hamilton
Date: January 7, 2015
Subject: RESOLUTION RELATING TO COMBATING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Council approves the resolution expressing the City Council's support for efforts to combat commercial sexual exploitation.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Prostitution is not a victimless crime. The Organization for Prostitution Survivors reports that the typical age of entry into prostitution is between 13 to 15 years old and 85 percent have histories of childhood sexual and physical abuse. As adults in prostitution, over 80 percent experience physical and sexual assaults, homelessness, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Eighty-eight percent report wanting to leave prostitution if they had an alternative. Online testing by researchers at Arizona State University recently reported that in the City of Seattle alone there were an estimated 8,806 men soliciting sex on one website in a 24-hour period.

Historically law enforcement has focused on arresting prostituted people. This approach does not adequately address the demand that drives sex trafficking, the sex buyers. No community is immune from such activities and the Kirkland Police Department has made many arrests related to prostitution and as resources allow, continues to investigate such matters. The King County Prosecuting Attorney Office and the Organization for Prostitution Survivors have joined forces to lead the "Buyer Beware," initiative. A key focus in this effort will be an online campaign that targets websites where sex buying takes place. The campaign will focus on the harmful impacts of sex buying and the penalties for getting caught.

The Kirkland Police Department and agencies across King County support the King County Prosecuting Attorney Office in placing a greater enforcement emphasis on the sex buyers. Additionally, the Kirkland Police Department is in full support of Council's Resolution on combatting human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

January 11, 2015, is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The National Human Trafficking Awareness Day started in 2011 through President Obama's declaration of January as the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention month. The proposed resolution expresses the City Council's backing for continued City participation in partnerships and

initiatives to combat commercial sexual exploitation. Specifically, the Council supports the City's partnership in the approach taken by the King County Prosecutor's Office to reduce the demand for prostitution by shifting the emphasis to sex buyers. Further, the resolution states the Council's commitment to educating the public regarding the dangers presented by the commercial sex industry. The resolution provides that the City's anti-trafficking strategies will be survivor informed and comprehensive, holding sex buyers and pimps accountable, while providing exit strategies and options for prostituted individuals. Finally, the members of the Council hold themselves and the City's employees to the highest ethical standards and promote culture of intolerance toward purchasing a human being for sex. The proposed resolution has been reviewed by the Council's Public Safety Committee which suggested edits and recommended approval by the full Council.

RESOLUTION R-5100

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND
RELATING TO COMBATING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
THROUGH REDUCING DEMAND, DETERRENCE AND PREVENTION.

1 WHEREAS, January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking
2 Prevention month; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council is committed to public
5 safety, health and well-being, and economic growth within the City of
6 Kirkland; and
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8 WHEREAS, it is illegal to purchase or sell sex in the City of
9 Kirkland, King County and the State of Washington; and
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11 WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation – which includes sex
12 trafficking – threatens the safety and well-being of the children and
13 vulnerable adults being purchased or trafficked; and
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15 WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation also threatens our
16 community values and the success of our legitimate business
17 community; and
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19 WHEREAS, the vast majority of purchased sex is brokered online,
20 with thousands of new ads posted each week in various escort services
21 sections of websites where young girls are often being advertised; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council is committed to promoting
24 a safe and healthy community, upholding the rule of law, taking a strong
25 position against human trafficking, and supporting efforts to combat
26 human trafficking and reduce commercial sexual exploitation.
27

28 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City
29 of Kirkland as follows:
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31 Section 1. The City of Kirkland continues to collaborate with
32 Eastside cities, County, state and federal partners, to combat the
33 commercial sexual exploitation of our children and vulnerable adults,
34 and mitigate the associated public safety, economic and health risks to
35 our City.
36

37 Section 2. The City of Kirkland supports the partnership with
38 and initiatives of the King County Prosecuting Attorney Office to reduce
39 the demand for commercial sex.
40

41 Section 3. The City of Kirkland is committed to providing for the
42 safety, health and well-being, of our entire community and therefore
43 supports age-appropriate, community-wide prevention and education
44 programs regarding the danger of the commercial sex industry.

45 Section 4. The City of Kirkland’s anti-trafficking strategies will be
46 survivor-informed and comprehensive, holding sex buyers and pimps
47 accountable, while providing exit strategies and options for prostituted
48 individuals.

49
50 Section 5. The City Council members hold themselves and City
51 employees to the highest ethical standards and promote a culture of
52 intolerance toward purchasing a human being for sex.

53
54
55 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
56 meeting this ____ day of _____, 2015.

57
58 Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____,
59 2015.

MAYOR

Attest:

City Clerk