



Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN VENTURA COUNTY

Report Date: APRIL 8, 2020

Response by: MATT LAVERE Title: MAYOR - CITY OF VENTURA

FINDINGS / CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the Facts / Conclusions numbered: C-04
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Facts / Conclusions numbered:
C-03
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Facts / Conclusions that are disputed;
including an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions and date completed.)
- Recommendations number R-01 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a time frame for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: 7/28/2020

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 2



The Honorable Kent M. Kellegrew
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Human Trafficking in Ventura County

Dear Judge Kellegrew:

The City of Ventura received the 2019-2020 Grand Jury report titled *Human Trafficking in Ventura County*. In accordance with Penal Code section 933.05, we submit this response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations.

The Grand Jury requires a response to conclusion C-03, C-04 and recommendation R-01.

Conclusions

C-03: *The Grand Jury concluded that differences in County and city massage parlor ordinances allow illicit businesses to avoid legal consequence.*

Response to C-03: The City of Ventura partially disagrees with conclusion C-03. Legal consequences are currently in place for illicit massage parlors through existing City and County ordinances and state law. Eliminating the differences in City and County ordinances for massage parlors might allow for more uniform and simplified standards for enforcement between law enforcement jurisdictions.

C-04: *The Grand Jury concluded that coordinating ordinances regarding massage parlors among the County and the cities within the County will improve the effectiveness of enforcement operations.*

Response to C-04: The City of Ventura agrees with conclusion 4.

Recommendation


R-01: *The Grand Jury recommends the County and each of the cities within the County coordinate their respective ordinances regarding massage parlors through the efforts of the Task Force.*

Response to R-01: The Ventura Police Department provides a Sergeant to represent the City of Ventura on the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force. The Ventura County Human

Trafficking Task Force has committed to taking a leadership role in the formation of a working group to evaluate, modify, and recommend changes to pre-existing massage parlor ordinances in the cities within Ventura County and the unincorporated areas. The working group will consist of representatives from each city government, City Attorneys, City Code Compliance, Ventura County Resource Management Agency, the District Attorney's Office, stakeholders in the massage industry and community representatives. Detectives from the Human Trafficking Task Force have already evaluated each cities' ordinance and drafted proposed guidelines and changes.

The goal of the working group will be to create common minimum standards and requirements for each city and county ordinance while recognizing that each city or area has different needs and community concerns. It will also be imperative to include the legitimate massage industry professionals as to not overburden them with regulations.

Sincerely,



Matt LaVere
Mayor