



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-376

MEETING: July 28, 2015

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

RE: Resolution Affirming Support for Efforts to Curtail Sexual Exploitation of Minors

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Adopt a resolution affirming Mariposa County's support for law enforcement's efforts at the national, state and local levels to identify and care for minor victims of sex trafficking and prosecute the perpetrators regardless of location.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a pressing national, state, and local issue. The FBI estimates that 100,000 children in the United States are sold for sex each year, including child sex trafficking, child sex tourism, and child pornography.

In California, the issue is especially urgent. According to the FBI, three of the top 13 highest trafficking areas in the nation are located in California: San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the San Diego metropolitan areas. The age when most youth are lured into CSEC activities is shocking: the average age for boys is between eleven and thirteen, and for girls, it is between ages twelve to fourteen. Even more shocking: the average life expectancy of an exploited child from the time they first enter CSEC activities is 7 years (U.S. News & World Report, Oct. 16, 2005, "*Young Lives for Sale*" by Bay Fang).

County law enforcement, child welfare services, behavioral health, the courts, and community-based organizations all grapple with CSEC youth and report increasing numbers of exploited underage victims. Counties believe this growing and complex problem warrants immediate attention in California, including funding for prevention, intervention, and direct services through county child welfare services (CWS) agencies. Counties also support close cooperation on CSEC issues with law enforcement, the judiciary, and community-based organizations to ensure the best outcomes for child victims."

Child sex trafficking occurs each day in California, as CSEC youth are transported through our counties and kept captive in varying cities or for specific events. While counties have led the effort to address the unique needs of CSEC youth, including working with law enforcement and the courts to divert suspected exploited children, the need for intensive services tailored to minors who have been ensnared in the illegal

sex trafficking trade remains critical. The attached resolution affirms Mariposa's commitment to work with other counties and the California State Association of Counties to develop strategies to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate the incidence of minors caught in the sex trafficking trade in California.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Mariposa County has approved resolutions supporting legislative initiatives in the past.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:


Mariposa County's voice won't be heard on this critical issue.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution to Support Efforts to Curtail Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (DOC)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Mary Hodson, CAO 7/21/2015

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

SECONDER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

AYES: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Marshall Long, Kevin Cann, John Carrier

EXCUSED: Merlin Jones

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 15-376

A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE COMMITMENT OF THE COUNTY OF MARIPOSA TO PREVENT COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN OUR COUNTY AND TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH ALL COUNTY PARTNERS TO IDENTIFY, PROTECT, AND SERVE THESE VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IN THE MATTER OF the epidemic of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the State of California:

WHEREAS, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors (Board of Supervisors) recognizes that the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a pressing national, state, and local issue; and

WHEREAS, the FBI estimates that 100,000 children in the United States are sold for sex each year, including child sex trafficking, child sex tourism, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, three of the top 13 highest trafficking areas in the nation are located in California: San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the San Diego metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, county law enforcement, child welfare services, behavioral health, the courts, and community-based organizations report increasing numbers of exploited underage victims; and

WHEREAS, counties have led the effort to address the unique needs of CSEC youth, including working with law enforcement and the courts to divert suspected exploited children; and

WHEREAS, county law enforcement, child welfare services, behavioral health, the courts, and community-based organizations continue to grapple with identifying and assisting CSEC youth but have also made significant gains in meeting the unique needs of these traumatized children; and

WHEREAS, the need for intensive services tailored to minors who have been ensnared in the illegal sex trafficking trade remains critical.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, a Political Subdivision of the State of California, hereby Affirms the County's Commitment to Developing Strategies to Prevent, Reduce, and Serve the Victims of Commercial Sexual Trafficking in California..

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of July, 2015, by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors by the following vote:


AYES: Smallcombe, Long, Cann, Carrier
NOES: None
ABSTAINED: None
EXCUSED: Jones

By: John Carrier, Vice-Chair



MERLIN JONES, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



RENÉ LAROCHÉ
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



STEVEN W. DAHLEM
County Counsel