

HTPCC Legislation and Policy Committee

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES¹

Thursday, 13 May 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Monica Krebs, Lt. Eric Kruhm, Rich Gibson, Tami Bulla, Dina Ward, Mariana Izraelson, Mariam Imohi, Yolanda Sonnier, Cheryl Mattis, and Andrea Nunez.

Members Absent: Sara Cochran, Dave Francis, Donna Bauer, Stephen Liggett-Creel, Chuck Chandler, Leslie Iampieri, Jon Steurnagle and Alicia Altamirano.

Others in Attendance: Leslie Petak, Nick Weikel, and Kathy Jordan.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. Meeting Open:

- a. 1:00 pm; Monica Krebs, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members to the HTPCC Legislation and Policy Committee meeting.

2. New Business

- a. Reflection on recent murders in Atlanta, massage establishments, and attitudes towards Asian women: Monica Krebs acknowledged the recent Atlanta shooting and gave space for reactions, comments, and conversation. She offered to share resources with members who were interested in learning more on the topic.

Lt. Eric Kruhm shared an update on the Howard County Police Department, Human Trafficking Section's recent inspection work in all establishments in Howard County providing massage services. He expressed interest in potential county legislation. Tami Bulla (HCPD legislative-focused staffer) also shared initial interest in county or state legislation.

Monica Krebs shared insights from Florida, which has some civilian inspectors who then call the National Hotline when they see certain things.

Andrea Nunez shared initial data conclusions, laid out potential next steps, and invited feedback from group.

- b. Article Review/ Discussion: California Labor Trafficking Report: Monica Krebs moved discussion to review the 2020 California report on Labor Trafficking.

Lt. Eric Kruhm echoed the views expressed about law enforcement and confirmed he is seeking more training opportunities for his team on labor trafficking.

Andrea Nunez shared her opinion that even though California and Maryland are different, they likely face similar challenges in terms of starting out and growing their efforts on labor trafficking as a whole.

Nick Weikel asked general questions about labor trafficking elements. Monica Krebs and Rich Gibson explained.

Lt. Eric Kruhm and Rich Gibson confirmed no labor trafficking criminal prosecutions have occurred locally, noting Maryland only recently codified state statute on labor trafficking; giving rise to criminal charges by state police and prosecutors, not just a federal labor trafficking charge.

Monica Krebs noted much of the Country is experiencing similar challenges to Maryland, which is not unique in state law.

Andrea Nunez promised to share self-educational resources on labor trafficking with committee members.

3. Announcements and Events of Importance

- a. May 20: Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council Meeting, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.

4. Additional Items for Discussion

- a. Rich Gibson explained Del Ebersole requested to speak with the committee or full HTPCC about state bill involving human trafficking training for hotels, motels and Airbnb's.

Andrea noted she testified for this bill two years ago on behalf of the County Executive when it was not successful. She agreed it was a good concept and will facilitate meeting with Del Ebersole.

5. Next Coordination Council Meeting Date(s)

- a. The next meeting of the HTPCC Legislation and Policy Committee is to be determined. The meeting will be virtual.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. 2:25 pm; Monica Krebs, Chair, departed the meeting early. Andrea Nunez motioned to conclude the meeting. The meeting concluded.

Minutes were drafted by: Briana Davis

Monica Krebs

Chair



Notes:

- 1) The meeting was conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.