



COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Item No. 7a

BRIEFING ITEM

Date of Meeting January 22, 2019

DATE: January 10, 2019
TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director
FROM: Eric Schinfeld, Sr. Manager, Federal & International Government Relations
Chad Aldridge, Veterans Fellow, Policy and Outreach Manager
SUBJECT: One-year progress report on port-wide Human Trafficking Strategy implementation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 9, 2018, the Port of Seattle Commission passed a motion directing staff to finalize and implement a Port-wide strategy to combat human trafficking. By taking that step, the Commission increased our organization’s leadership role on this important topic, for which we not only have a moral obligation to protect residents and visitors but also a tangible role because of our status as both a large employer and as the manager of significant trade and travel facilities.

We have implemented or are implementing almost all aspects of the strategy – from the successful creation of an internal policy to ensure all Port employees understand our commitment to this vital equity and social justice issue, to the development of employee training through a contract with Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking. We have also developed key partnerships with other public and private sector leaders that are allowing us to maximize public awareness of human trafficking in our region – including the January 17, 2019, launch of a regional human trafficking awareness campaign.

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and so it is appropriate to use the January 22 Commission meeting to both update Commissioners on our progress and successes, as well as use the public meeting as another platform to raise public awareness.

DETAILS

The Port’s human trafficking strategy has four main focus areas:

- 1) **Training** – Ensuring that all employees have access to the proper training and education to understand both what human trafficking is and its impacts on our communities.
- 2) **Communications** – Using port facilities and communications channels to raise public awareness of human trafficking and provide information to stop trafficking at our facilities.
- 3) **Policies and Protocols** – Ensuring that Port policies prohibit engagement in human trafficking, and provide clear procedures for employees to follow to report suspicion of human trafficking and violations of these policies.

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- 4) **Partnerships** – Leveraging relationships to reduce duplication and to maximize the impact of our efforts, including collaborating with nonprofits; local, state and federal agencies; and key customers and vendors.

The following are key updates on each of these four focus areas:

Strategy	Status	Specific Accomplishments	Next Steps
Training	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Port has held three trainings for Port employees (including one specifically for Port police), reaching over 200 employees • The Port has contracted with Businesses Ending Slavery & Trafficking (BEST) to develop and conduct trainings for our employees and to create a strategy to extend these training opportunities to others who work at our facilities • The Port Police Department has developed and is implementing a separate curriculum for all officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEST will continue implementing their training strategy in collaboration with the Port. • The Port Police will continue implementing their training plan.
Public Awareness	In Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018, the Port held a press conference on this topic, and posted signage at Sea-Tac throughout January Human Trafficking Awareness Month. • In addition, last year we posted signage on airport bathroom stalls sharing that the Port Police are a resource in both sexual assault and human trafficking incidents. • On January 17, 2019, we launched a regional human trafficking awareness campaign – including signage throughout Port facilities – in partnership with the City of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to expand the number of public and private sector partners participating in the regional public awareness campaign.

		Seattle, King County, Sound Transit and a number of other public and private sector partners.	
Policies & Protocols	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Port has finalized an Executive Policy that outlines Port restrictions on trafficking activity, which will be shared as part of the training curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Port is participating in the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking’s Protocols & Policies Subcommittee, which is working on a national recommendation by July 2019.
Partnerships	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the partnerships developed through the regional awareness campaign, the Port has joined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses Against Slavery and Trafficking’s Employer Alliance King County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Task Force Washington Advisory Committee on Trafficking The USDOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking Protocols & Policies Subcommittee The Port hosted the 2018 Statewide Commercially Sexually Exploited Children’s Task Force Conference at the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build partnerships for the regional human trafficking campaign. Continue to build partnerships with Port vendors, contractors and tenants to offer training to those who work at or near Port facilities. Continue to share best practices with ports across the country. Expand Port activities to the Northwest

		<p>Sea-Tac Conference Center in October 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Port is working with the American Association of Port Authorities to share human trafficking best practices with other ports. 	<p>Seaport Alliance.</p>
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ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Although slavery is commonly thought to be a thing of the past, each year millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States. Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics to force people to engage in commercial sex or to provide labor or services against their will. It is estimated that human trafficking generates billions of dollars of profit per year – second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime.

Here in Washington state, we are not immune from the problem. Washington had the 12th highest call volume to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2017. In King County, an estimated 300-500 children are prostituted annually, some are as young as 11 years old; there are over 100 websites for soliciting sex in the Seattle area, many of which are used for human trafficking purposes.

As both the operator of an airport and an owner of a wide array of maritime facilities, we can help reduce the probability that our properties will be used as a transit point for traffickers and their victims. As a major employer, we can save lives by educating our staff on the damaging effect that exploitation and trafficking have on individual lives and families, and how it undermines our commitment to equity and social justice. As a public sector leader, we can collaborate with other jurisdictions, customers, vendors and partners to raise awareness of this important issue.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- (1) Presentation slides
- (2) Human Trafficking Motion 2018-01
- (3) Port Human Trafficking Strategy executive summary

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

- January 9, 2018 – The Commission passed a motion directing staff to finalize and implement the Port’s human trafficking strategy.
- July 24, 2018 – The Commission heard a six-month update on strategy implementation, and extended key motion deadlines to December 31, 2019.