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**REVISED**

Date: April 22, 2025

To: Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie, Ninth Council District  
Councilwoman Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Eighth Council District  
Mayor Rex Richardson

Subject: **Request for an Assessment of the City's Strategic Framework to Address Human Trafficking and Public Safety Concerns on Long Beach Boulevard in North Long Beach and for Proposals to Strengthen and Enhance the Framework**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Request the City Manager to work with all relevant City departments, potentially including the Long Beach Police Department, Health and Human Services Department, City Prosecutor, Dispatch, Economic Development Department, Community Development Department, and Public Works, to provide the City Council with information about the scope of human trafficking activities and attendant public safety impacts along Long Beach Boulevard in North Long Beach<sup>1</sup>; the City's current efforts and programs to address those activities and assist victims; any barriers to more effectively counter these activities; and options to more successfully address this issue. Explore additional possibilities for regional coordination with Compton, Lynwood, and other neighboring cities as well as the County of Los Angeles and potential partnership opportunities with relevant State agencies and survivor-focused nonprofits; and

Collaborate with the City Attorney, Community Development Department, and City Prosecutor to review and provide an update to City Council on the City's Nuisance Motel Regulation and Alcohol Nuisance Abatement ordinances, highlight opportunities to strengthen or expand existing ordinances to address outstanding quality of life issues<sup>2</sup> and present current data<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Communication from Long Beach Police Department" November 1, 2022  
<https://tinyurl.com/36z7mh25>

<sup>2</sup> "City Council Minutes, May 10, 2022"  
<https://longbeach.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10862782&GUID=828798DE-5DD0-45CF-A895-678F72FA387C&G=C4C9EF84-1F4F-4970-B63A-E2A64495FA07> <sup>3</sup> "Communication from Long Beach Police Department" November 1, 2022

<sup>3</sup> "Communication from Long Beach Police Department" November 1, 2022  
<https://statics.teams.cdn.office.net/evergreen-assets/safelinks/1/atp-safelinks.html>

<sup>4</sup> "City Leaders and Motel Owners Work to End Prostitution Along Figueroa Corridor," *NBC Los Angeles*, March 14, 2024. <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/city-leaders-and-motel-owners-work-to-end-prostitution-along-figueroa-corridor/3269707/>

regarding motels linked to recurring public safety concerns along Long Beach Boulevard in North Long Beach; and

Identify state and federal legislation that aims to enhance enforcement tools, expand survivor support services, and provide cities with greater legislative oversight to address these quality-of-life issues, and return to Council with recommendations to adopt formal support positions.

A report back is requested within 120 days.

## DISCUSSION

Human trafficking continues to have a significant impact on communities throughout Los Angeles County such as “The Stroll” on Figueroa Street in Los Angeles<sup>4</sup>. Long Beach Boulevard - particularly in North Long Beach, has long been a hotspot for such activities. This ongoing activity poses serious challenges to public safety and the well-being of surrounding neighborhoods.

The passage of California Senate Bill 357 (the Safer Streets for All Act) decriminalized loitering for the purpose of prostitution. However, it has limited law enforcement’s ability to address activity short of visible solicitation, affecting the quality of life in communities regularly exposed to such activity. This has raised significant public safety concerns, particularly around parks, childcare facilities like Bright Futures Academy, and schools, including Colin Powell Academy and Starr King Elementary. Residents report children being exposed to solicitation and related dangers, as loitering often occurs directly in front of school properties. In response, families have been forced to take unsafe pedestrian detours through alleyways to avoid harassment and encounters with inadequately clothed sex workers. Alarming incidents have also been reported involving individuals engaged in trafficking and brandishing weapons. This ongoing activity contributes to broader societal violence, destabilizes families and local economies, and undermines community safety.

Before this change in state legislation, the City pursued several initiatives to address human trafficking, including the Nuisance Motels Pilot Program<sup>5</sup>, motel conversions<sup>6</sup>, and partnerships with local institutions like California State University Long Beach (CSULB)<sup>7</sup>. Despite these efforts, solicitation and trafficking activity persist and remain highly visible. The challenge is compounded by jurisdictional overlaps among Long Beach, Compton, and Lynwood, where increased enforcement in one area often leads to displacement of the issue rather than a long-

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<sup>4</sup> “City Leaders and Motel Owners Work to End Prostitution Along Figueroa Corridor,” *NBC Los Angeles*, March 14, 2024. <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/city-leaders-and-motel-owners-work-to-end-prostitution-along-figueroa-corridor/3269707/>

<sup>5</sup> Tracy Colunga, *Nuisance Motels Pilot Program*, memo to the Mayor and City Council, February 8, 2018, City of Long Beach, <https://longbeach.gov/globalassets/city-manager/media-library/documents/memos-to-the-mayor-tabbed-file-list-folders/2018/february-8--2018---nuisance-motels-pilot-program>

<sup>6</sup> Rex Richardson, Suely Saro, and Cindy Allen to Mayor Robert Garcia and Members of the City Council, “Long Beach Boulevard Corridor-Based Neighborhood Safety Initiative,” May 10, 2022, R-19. <https://longbeach.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10862782&GUID=828798DE-5DD0-45CF-A895-678F72FA387C&G=C4C9EF84-1F4F-4970-B63A-E2A64495FA07>.

<sup>7</sup> *My Sister’s Keeper: Long Beach CalGRIP Program*, Long Beach Development Services, accessed April 4, 2025, <https://www.lbds.info> and <https://www.lbvpp.com>

term resolution. Regional coordination is essential.

The upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup<sup>8</sup>, with matches in Los Angeles, and the 2028 Olympic Games<sup>9</sup>, hosted in both Los Angeles (LA) and Long Beach, heighten the urgency for proactive measures, as such major international events often correlate with increased human trafficking. Understanding the current state of the City's efforts regarding enforcement, considering other data collection mechanisms, and exploring potential opportunities for alignment with regional efforts, like LA County's proposed prevention body and data system, may lead to recommendations for enhancement of the City's programs and ordinances addressing to this issue<sup>10</sup>.

The City Council is interested in obtaining information about the City's current efforts and programs and any recommendations to the Council to support any additional efforts for expanded enforcement and public health strategies to address human trafficking in North Long Beach. The City's previous initiatives to address human trafficking have sought to ensure cooperation and coordination between the City's departments to address human trafficking and associated public safety issues using a multipronged approach. The City Council requests that the City Manager provide a report explaining all City programs designed to address human trafficking, including but not limited to its enforcement of the City's Nuisance Motel Regulation and Alcohol Nuisance Abatement ordinances. Specifically, the City Council is interested in obtaining information regarding the City's current programs, additional opportunities for cooperation with regional, state and non-profit entities working on these issues, any additional proposals that staff can identify that can improve our response to human trafficking, and the financial and staffing costs of such proposed additional proposals. The report should include information about the City's current programs, any programs that other organizations and entities are currently implementing within the City, and identify programs that other entities are legally responsible for providing. In this effort, the Council asks that staff focus on the following issues:

## **I. Local Enforcement and Interdepartmental Coordination**

### **• Data-Driven Strategies:**

- The City's use of the Long Beach Police Department's crime mapping and analytics to pinpoint and prioritize high-risk areas.
- The City's data collection and reporting on calls for service and enforcement actions concerning specific nuisance properties.
- The City's use of data from constituent email correspondences regarding human trafficking complaints.
- The efficacy of and possible improvement the City's community complaint portals to allow integration with the City's dispatch data systems.

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<sup>8</sup> FIFA, "FIFA World Cup 26™," accessed April 9, 2025, <https://www.fifa.com/en/tournaments/mens/worldcup/canadamexicousa2026>

<sup>9</sup> LA28, *Official Website of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games*, accessed April 9, 2025, <https://la28.org/en.html>

<sup>10</sup> County of Los Angeles, Board of Supervisors, Statement of Proceedings. Page 5. February 4, 2025. [https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1177738\\_020425.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1177738_020425.pdf)

- ***Deployment Community Presence & Safety Resources:***

- The City's deployment of staff near schools to support non-emergency reporting and strengthen local community engagement.
- The City's use of Applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to improve security at known hotspots, including illegally operated and vacant properties, along Long Beach Boulevard, particularly in front of schools, through strategies such as:
  - enhanced lighting
  - strategic landscape design improvements
  - safety cameras
  - other technology.

- ***Legal, Enforcement and Support Tools:***

- The use of public nuisance injunctions to address properties involved in illegal activities.
- The City's systems for documenting evidence of nuisance activities on properties through police reports and neighborhood complaints.
- The City's efforts to provide legal support to survivors of human trafficking through activities such as vacatur relief (a legal remedy that may help reverse adverse decisions) for victims of human trafficking<sup>11</sup>.
- The City's systems for identifying and defining sensitive locations or possible buffer zones (e.g., areas near schools, places of worship, or healthcare facilities).
- The City's challenges, strategies, and measurable goals for enforcing public decency standards near sensitive locations

- ***Scope & Training:***

- The City's efforts to address labor trafficking<sup>12</sup> through activities such as site inspections, regulatory code enforcement, and court injunctions under the state's Red-Light Abatement Act.
- The City's training programs for all city departments as well as Port of Long Beach staff for comprehensive human trafficking awareness.

- ***Collaboration:***

- The City's system for maintaining interdepartmental coordination and communication among Health and Human Services, Police, Prosecutors, Economic Development, Dispatch and Community Development staff to support ongoing nuisance abatement and anti-trafficking initiatives.
- The City's system for initiating, maintaining and strengthening partnerships with relevant community members, local businesses, and agencies to foster safer neighborhood environments.

## **II. Strategic Partnerships and Regional Coordination**

- ***Partner for Community & Survivor Support:***

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<sup>11</sup> [Office of the California Attorney General. "Penal Code Section 236.14 & Vacatur Relief Toolkit."](#)

<sup>12</sup> Labor trafficking affects many through exploitative practices in various commercial settings. This inclusive approach helps target the illicit activities and properties that enable exploitation and undermine public safety.

- The City's systems for initiating, maintaining and strengthening collaborations with non-profits and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to address underlying contributors to exploitation-such as poverty, homelessness, and system-involvement-while delivering trauma-informed care.
- The City's programs for stabilizing foster care youth and supporting their transition to self-sufficiency.
- The City's programs and systems identifying and partnering with survivor support organizations who provide culturally competent outreach for services.
- The City's programs for allying with survivor advocacy organizations and the California Victim Compensation Board to streamline access to financial assistance for survivors<sup>13</sup>.
- The City's system for evaluation as to whether to initiate a comprehensive Survivor Navigator Program to guide individuals through these resources effectively.

- ***Regional Coordination:***

- The City's systems and programs for initiating and maintaining regional collaboration with local municipalities, such as Compton and Lynwood, and the County of Los Angeles, with a focus on shared enforcement and intervention strategies, and resource acquisition.
- The City's systems for taking advantage of resources such as the Los Angeles County Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force<sup>14</sup> and tracking potential resources such as the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' recently approved motion to explore the creation of a human trafficking prevention body under the Department of Public Health.

- ***Partnerships for Diversion and Support for Survivors:***

- The City's systems for identifying and participating in comprehensive diversion programs—such as LEAD 2.0— that provide survivors of human trafficking essential housing, treatment, and counseling services<sup>15</sup>.
- The City's programs for collaborating with regional trade unions, vocational schools, and educational institutions creating accessible educational pathways for survivors.

- ***Outreach & Resource Distribution:***

- The City's programs for targeted business outreach along Long Beach Boulevard to discourage illicit activities and providing education on compliance and best practices for business operations.
- The City's programs for identifying, initiating and maintaining community partnerships and distributing resource guides through schools and other local channels to enhance public awareness and foster a safer environment.

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<sup>13</sup>["Improving Access to Compensation for Human Trafficking Survivors" Loyola Law School, September 2024](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Los Angeles County, "Human Trafficking"](#) accessed April 9, 2025,

<sup>15</sup> [Long Beach City Prosecutor, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion](#)

### III. Motel Nuisance and Abatement Ordinances

- **Ordinances:**

- Review and report on the ordinances passed in [Lancaster](#)<sup>16</sup> and [Claremont](#)<sup>17</sup> designed to target human trafficking activities.
- Review the City's Nuisance Motel Regulation<sup>18</sup> and Alcohol Nuisance Abatement Regulation<sup>19</sup> and explore potential amendments that could incorporate new strategies. The report should specifically address whether these regulations should be amended to include or enhance:
  - Identification & Verification requirements
  - Detailed Record-Keeping
  - Stay Duration Controls
  - Safety & Surveillance Measures
  - Facility Sanitation and Maintenance Standards
- Consider whether the Long Beach Municipal Code (e.g., Chapter 9.37)<sup>20</sup> should be amended to explicitly designate motels used as human trafficking sites as public nuisances.<sup>21</sup>
- Review the Long Beach Municipal Code provisions regarding the maximum administrative penalties available to impose on motel owners who are aware of human trafficking occurring on their property yet fail to report it to authorities to determine if these provisions are fully aligned with state law.<sup>22</sup>

- **Oversight and Compliance:**

- The City's process for issuing administrative search warrants and for obtaining pre-compliance review for law enforcement inspections of guest records and CCTV footage.<sup>23</sup>
- The City's current process and programs for conducting oversight of motel compliance with the Long Beach Municipal Code and other relevant laws.
- The City's current process for reporting to City leadership regarding compliance, potential deficiencies, and recommended corrective actions for motel properties in Long Beach.

- **Land Use Strategies:**

- The City's systems and programs for examining and evaluating land use strategies—such as rezoning and amortization mechanisms—to transform legacy motels with high crime rates into approved land uses that are more compatible with community needs over time.

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<sup>16</sup> [City of Lancaster, California. "Ordinance No. 1056".](#)

<sup>17</sup> [City of Claremont, California. "Ordinance No. 2023-01." Effective March 28, 2023](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Long Beach Municipal Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.57](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Long Beach Municipal Code, Title 21, Chapter 21.57](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Long Beach Municipal Code, Title 9, Chapter 9.37](#)

<sup>21</sup> See, e.g., [California Penal Code § 11225](#) and [California Health & Safety Code §§ 11570, et seq.](#)

<sup>22</sup> [California Civil Code § 52.65](#)

<sup>23</sup> See, [Los Angeles v. Patel, 576 U.S. 409 \(2015\)](#) (subject of administrative search warrant must have an opportunity for pre-compliance review before a neutral decisionmaker.)



#### **IV. Legislative and Policy Advocacy**

Identify and report on proposed legislation and legislation under consideration at the state and federal level addressing human trafficking and related public safety issues, specifically including a review of AB 379,<sup>24</sup> AB 1231,<sup>25</sup> and AB 562.<sup>26</sup> Provide recommendations for legislation that the City could officially support.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

This recommendation requests the City Manager to work with appropriate departments to report back on the City's efforts to address human trafficking in North Long Beach and to propose additional recommendations to enhance public safety and support services in that area. The requested action is anticipated to require a significant level of staff hours beyond the budgeted scope of duties and have a significant impact on meeting other City Council priorities and may require additional resources to complete. The amount of fiscal impact is unknown at this time and will depend on the various strategies ultimately employed following the report back. To the extent possible, please include fiscal impacts associated with all recommendations in the report when it is brought back to the City Council.

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION**

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Joni Ricks-Oddie, Councilmember, Ninth District



Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Councilwoman, Eighth District



Mayor Rex Richardson

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<sup>24</sup> [Bill Text - California Assembly Bill No. 379 - Crimes: prostitution.](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Bill Text - California Assembly Bill 1231 - Criminal procedure: felony diversion.](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Bill Text - California Assembly Bill 562 - Foster care: placement: family finding.](#)