



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Minutes of the Human Relations Committee**

10:00 AM

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Present: K. Morrison, Trevor, Anaya, Gordon, Miller (remote), and Quezada (remote) (6)
Absent: Stamps (1)
Also Present: Moore

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Vice Chairwoman Trevor, to allow for remote participation in the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: K. Morrison, Trevor, Anaya, Gordon, Miller (remote), and Quezada (remote) (6)
Absent: Stamps (1)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairman K. Morrison asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in Accordance with Cook County Code.

- 1.) Victoria Davis Jones, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services**
- 2.) Clarence Booth, Emmaus**

24-1768

Sponsored by: STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, FRANK J. AGUILAR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MEN AND BOYS IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board reaffirms that trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation are crimes, grave violations of human rights, and public health issues that affect individuals across gender, sex, age, and nationality, with a significant yet underrecognized impact on men and boys; and

WHEREAS, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has described Chicago, Cook County's largest city, as having a robust sex trade, a claim that is further supported by the following: a recent Department of Justice (DOJ) study estimated that 3,303 young adults ages 18-24 are engaged in the sex trade in the city. This data parallels informed estimates from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless that Chicago has 15,744 homeless youth ages 14-24, a quarter (27.5%) of whom have likely sold sex to survive with 60% of Chicago's homeless youth identifying as male, a conservative estimate of male victims in Chicago places this figure at 2,500 male victims, for whom there are virtually no gender-specific services available. An additional study exploring the relative participation of male- to female-identified victims found that 36% of youth (14-24) engaged in the sex trade are male; and

WHEREAS, societal misunderstandings, stereotypes, and stigma around victimhood lead to a lack of identification of men and boys as victims and survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation from those from whom they seek help, including law enforcement, healthcare providers, and social services, and handicaps prevention by parents who are significantly less likely to use filtering software on their son's computers versus their daughter's; and

WHEREAS, the current landscape of support services and resources for male-identified victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, including only one residential program for males in the nation and a small minority of social service agencies nationally and locally who are willing to serve males, is significantly lacking in provisions for male victims, including contributing to their further marginalization and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board acknowledges the necessity of a comprehensive, inclusive, and intersectional approach to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which includes addressing the specific needs of male victims; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County Board hereby commits to the following actions to address trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation of men and boys in Cook County, Illinois: and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners request a convening of the Cook County Human Relations Committee to conduct a hearing; and

1. Establish a task force or a subcommittee within the current Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force: Create a dedicated task force or a subcommittee within the current Cook County Human

Trafficking Task Force to encourage effective cooperation and coordination of efforts in partnership with other anti-trafficking advocates such as law enforcement, social-service agencies, healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, and survivor advocacy groups to combat trafficking in persons and exploitation of men and boys in Cook County.

2. Develop Specialized Support Services: Allocate funding and resources to develop and implement specialized support services for male victims and survivors of trafficking in persons and exploitation, including safe housing, medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, job training, and more.

3. Raise Awareness and Training: Launch public awareness campaigns to shed light on male victimhood, including the social, economic, cultural, and political factors that make men and boys vulnerable to trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. These factors include, but are not limited to, poverty, unemployment, inequality, sexual violence, gender discrimination, social exclusion, and marginalization, as well as the social and cultural bias around males. Additionally, develop comprehensive training programs for law enforcement, healthcare providers, educators, and social-service personnel to identify male or male-identified victims among vulnerable populations through appropriate, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory measures.

4. Promote Research and Data Collection: Encourage and support research initiatives to gather data on the trafficking and exploitation of men and boys to better understand their needs and improve the effectiveness of interventions and support services. Conduct research and collect suitable disaggregated data to enable proper analysis of the nature and extent of trafficking in persons for men and boys specifically.

5. Engage Community and Survivor Voices: Foster strong partnerships with community organizations and ensure the meaningful involvement of survivors in shaping policies, services, and awareness efforts to ensure that interventions are survivor-informed and culturally sensitive.

6. Advocate for Policy Changes: Advocate for changes in local, state, and federal policies to recognize the needs of male victims of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation and to ensure that laws and regulations are inclusive and supportive of all victims, regardless of gender.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook County Board shall review the progress of these initiatives annually and adjust as necessary to ensure that Cook County is a leading example of comprehensive and inclusive support for all victims of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. That a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body this 29th day of February 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Quezada, to suspend the rules 24-1768. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: K. Morrison, Trevor, Anaya, Gordon, Miller (remote), and Quezada (remote) (6)

Absent: Stamps (1)

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Vice Chairwoman Trevor, that this Resolution be accepted as substituted. The motion carried.

Ayes: K. Morrison, Trevor, Anaya, Gordon, Miller (remote), and Quezada (remote) (6)

Absent: Stamps (1)

24-1768

Sponsored by: STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, FRANK J. AGUILAR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE TO FILE 24-1768

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MEN AND BOYS IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, in the U.S. Department of State’s fact sheet on ‘Understanding Human Trafficking’, it identifies “trafficking in persons” and “human trafficking” as umbrella terms-often used interchangeably-to refer to a crime whereby traffickers exploit and profit at the expense of adults or children by compelling them to perform labor or engage in commercial sex; and

WHEREAS, in that same fact sheet, the U.S. Department of State further identifies that both labor and sex trafficking entails the use of force, fraud, or coercion that exploits the labor or services of another person or to compel their engagement in a commercial sex act; and

WHEREAS, under Illinois statute, 720 ILCS 5/10-9, trafficking is defined as (1) the recruitment, enticement, harboring, transport, provision, or obtainment by any means, or attempts to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means, another person, intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to involuntary servitude, or (2) the benefiting, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that has engaged in an act of involuntary servitude or involuntary sexual servitude of a minor; and

WHEREAS, the statute goes on to define that a company commits trafficking in persons when the company knowingly benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that has engaged in an act of involuntary servitude or involuntary sexual servitude of a minor; and **WHEREAS**, based on these definitions, it bears emphasizing that adult consensual sex work is not trafficking; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Office of Drugs & Crime Global Report on Trafficking

Persons (2022), the majority of human trafficking occurs outside of sex trafficking - with sex trafficking making up 39% whilst the other 61% encompasses human trafficking that occurs in other industries, fish & farming, domestic, cleaning, hospitality, and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board reaffirms that trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation are crimes, grave violations of human rights, and public health issues that affect individuals across gender, sex, age, and nationality, with a significant yet underrecognized impact on men and boys; and

WHEREAS, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has described Chicago, Cook County's largest city, as having a robust sex trade, a claim that is further supported by the following: a recent Department of Justice (DOJ) study estimated that 3,303 young adults ages 18-24 are engaged in the sex trade in the city; and

WHEREAS, this data parallels informed estimates from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless that Chicago has 15,744 homeless youth ages 14-24, a quarter (27.5%) of whom have likely sold sex to survive, with 60% of Chicago's homeless youth identifying as male; and

WHEREAS, a conservative estimate places nearly 2,500 male-identified individuals as having sold sex in Chicago, for whom there are virtually no gender-specific services available; and

WHEREAS, an additional study exploring the relative participation of male- to female-identified victims found that 36% of youth (14-24) engaged in the sex trade are male; and

WHEREAS, societal misunderstandings, stereotypes, and stigma around victimhood lead to a lack of identification of men and boys as victims and survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation from those from whom they seek help, including law enforcement, healthcare providers, and social services, and handicaps prevention by parents who are significantly less likely to use filtering software on their son's computers versus their daughter's; and

WHEREAS, the current landscape of support services and resources for male-identified victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, including only one residential program for males in the nation and a small minority of social service agencies nationally and locally who are willing to serve males, is significantly lacking in provisions for male-identified victims, including contributing to their further marginalization and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board acknowledges the necessity of a comprehensive, inclusive, and intersectional approach to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which includes addressing the specific needs of male-identified victims; and

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2. Develop Specialized Support Services: Allocate funding and resources to develop and implement specialized support services for male victims and survivors of trafficking in persons and exploitation, including safe housing, medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, job training, and more.
3. Raise Awareness and Training: Launch public awareness campaigns to shed light on male victimhood, including the social, economic, cultural, and political factors that make men and boys vulnerable to trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. These factors include, but are not limited to, poverty, unemployment, inequality, sexual violence, gender discrimination, social exclusion, and marginalization, as well as the social and cultural bias around males. Additionally, develop comprehensive training programs for law enforcement, healthcare providers, educators, and social-service personnel to identify male or male-identified victims among vulnerable populations through appropriate, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory measures.
4. Promote Research and Data Collection: Encourage and support research initiatives to gather data on the trafficking and exploitation of men and boys to better understand their needs and improve the effectiveness of interventions and support services. Conduct research and collect suitable disaggregated data to enable proper analysis of the nature and extent of trafficking in persons for men and boys specifically.
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook County Board shall review the progress of these initiatives annually and adjust as necessary to ensure that Cook County is a leading example of comprehensive and inclusive support for all victims of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. That a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body this 29th day of February 2024.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Trevor, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to recommend for receiving and filing as substituted 24-1768. The motion carried by the following=

vote:

Ayes: K. Morrison, Trevor, Anaya, Gordon, Miller (remote), and Quezada (remote) (6)

Absent: Stamps (1)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Vice Chairwoman Trevor, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: K. Morrison, Trevor, Anaya, Gordon, Miller (remote), and Quezada (remote) (6)

Absent: Stamps (1)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman



Secretary

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>.