

2013 King County Sheriffs Office Human Trafficking Activities

The King County Sheriffs Office, with the assistance of Velma Veloria, produced an Executive Summary for the King County Council on human trafficking. From January to August 2013, the Executive Office, Public Health – Seattle & King County, the Department of Community and Human Services, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the King County Sheriff's Office worked together to collect and analyze data, understand the policy frameworks and state of the human trafficking response field, and identify actions currently underway by King County. Other departments were also consulted through an informal inter-branch team; Departments listed in the proviso were invited to participate; a focus group was also held including community providers. This report is a follow-up and summary of our current resources and activities with human trafficking investigations.

In addition to the needs of the proviso, Ms. Veloria and detectives of the King County Sheriff's Office Criminal Intelligence Unit broached other aspects of combating human trafficking. They include:

1. Educating the public and law enforcement:

Upon request, KCSO detectives conducted specialized training for other agencies on Human Trafficking. KCSO and KCPAO hosted a two-day training conference in King County focusing on child exploitation. Over 120 law enforcement officers from 29 different agencies attended. KCSO detectives assisted on a National Child Exploitation conference educating detectives from 21 states.

KCSO detectives trained and assisted community-based agencies/groups in educating the public on human trafficking. These agencies include the University of Washington, UW Women's Center Anti-HT Task Force, Washington ENGAGE (Coalition on stopping Human Trafficking); King County CSEC Task Force, WashAct Multidisciplinary Taskforce, United States Federal Court Clerks, and (FASA) Filipino American Students Association.

2. Networking with other law enforcement agencies:

KCSO Detectives are currently involved in over 60 investigations involving human trafficking and child exploitation. All of these investigations originated in King County and will be prosecuted by state and federal courts. KCSO detectives are the lead investigators in these human trafficking /child exploitation cases. However, the support in a majority of these investigations comes from outside local and federal law enforcement agencies.

3. Assist other agencies:

KCSO has participated in assisting other agencies in human trafficking investigations. These agencies include Cities of Bothell, Mill Creek, Everett, Mount Vernon, Auburn, Renton, Fife, Kent, Seattle, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Seattle, Tacoma, Federal Way, and Portland. KCSO has assisted the following federal agencies in Human trafficking investigations: DEA, FBI, ATF, and Homeland Security.

4. Assist other KCSO units:

Detectives from CIU assist other units within the King County Sheriffs Office with human trafficking and other investigations. These units include City of Shoreline Street Crime Unit, SeaTac Street Crime Unit, KCSO Sexual Assault Unit, and the Major Crimes Unit.

5. KCSO human trafficking resources (in addition to other/primary duties):

- a. 1 Full time detective (with other ancillary duties).
- b. City of SeaTac Street Crime Unit (3)
- c. City of Shoreline Street Crime Unit (4)
- d. Metro Street Crime Unit (5)
- e. Burien Street Crime Unit (2)

6. Federal law enforcement resources:

KCSO has two detectives assigned to the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force that are federally funded for overtime worked.

7. Criminal investigations and prosecutions:

KCSO detectives target organized crime related to human trafficking and assist victims of this crime. KCSO has developed relationships with specialized prosecutors and victim advocacy groups to assist in all aspects of human trafficking. KCSO investigative techniques include an intelligence-led approach to targeting, investigating, and dismantling criminal organizations that profit from human trafficking.

Examples of intelligence-led investigations include open source monitoring of criminal organizations (internet, social media), criminal informants providing information on specific targets and victims, and historical development of criminal organizations for conspiracy prosecutions. Pro-active investigations include police sting operations targeting specific suspects, and street sweeps targeting juvenile prostitutes leading to arrest of pimps and other facilitators.

Follow-up investigations include developing victim testimony and evidence into successful prosecution of human trafficking and sexual assault crimes. Undercover operations to maintain

real intelligence are conducted that include covert membership association with criminal organizations via social media and other resources.

The King County Sheriff's Office has moved forward in being a lead agency in combating human trafficking by leading through example. KCSO has successfully networked with other law enforcement agencies and non-government agencies. The human trafficking cases produced by KCSO are of high quality and have been successfully prosecuted. The victims of this crime have been provided quality resources. Human trafficking cases KCSO has investigated include:

- International Human Trafficking case in Bellevue. An organization was promoting and profiting from employees who were trafficked into the United States, stored in apartments, and were forced to provide sex to clients. The employees accumulated debt to their employees for the cost of the entry into the United States upwards of \$60,000. These victims were forced to continue to work long hours with little to no pay and were not able to return home due to the confiscation of their passports by the criminal organization. Further, the workers were forced to continue their work during a home invasion robbery spree in which a crew of robbery suspects were acting as clients; gaining access to the apartments; and then robbed, assaulted with firearms, and some cases raped the workers. This case was successfully investigated, although prosecution is still pending. A \$40,000 dollar seizure stemmed from this investigation.
- International Human Trafficking case in SeaTac. A single "Madam" owned and operated three massage parlors in SeaTac, Burien and Bellevue. Through undercover operations, surveillance, and intelligence gathering, KCSO detectives arrested the Madam and her assistants, and were able to assist two victims with resources who were in a debt bondage situation with the Madam. KCSO detectives seized \$110,000, two cars, and \$75,000 worth of diamonds.
- Child exploitation cases are deemed "one victim at a time" cases due to the frequency and delicate nature of the victim. KCSO has been involved in 30 such investigations in the last year where the victim has disclosed being a victim of child prostitution and has provided suspect information. Many of these types of cases are pending prosecution or are currently being investigated.
- Targeting customers of child prostitutes are a priority of the King County Sheriff's Office. Undercover operations like "Street Sweeps", or deputies posing as underage children online are employed. Obtaining clear and concise evidence are the goals of these operations, not only to obtain a successful operation, but to maintain the quality of the undercover operations that the King County Sheriff's office conducts.

8. Cost of KCSO work devoted to human trafficking

The easiest way to track hours devoted to human trafficking investigations is through overtime, because it is specifically logged towards a specific purpose. Police and detective work done on normal shift hours is not captured in the same way, and thus tremendously laborious to capture. From January 1, 2013 to early September, human trafficking investigations cost KCSO a total of \$107,221 in overtime alone with approximately \$20,000 being reimbursed by the FBI. This figure does not capture any KCSO detective casework on human trafficking investigations during normal shift hours.

KCSO has networked with the FBI to supplement overtime for two KCSO detectives. With one human trafficking detective conducting criminal organization/multi-defendant cases, assistance is often needed from other units within King County.

As noted in the beginning of this report, a temporary part-time staffer was hired to help implement the human trafficking proviso required by the King County Council. This staffer worked for several months and was ultimately paid just over \$21,000.

In 2013, KCSO developed a one-hour online training for commissioned deputies. The purpose of the training was to assist deputies in identifying the signs of human trafficking. This training took two deputies three full days plus an additional four hours of overtime to develop, coming to an additional cost of \$1,024. The online human trafficking training is mandatory for all commissioned personnel, at the estimated cost of \$30,399 to KCSO.

ATTACHMENT:

Email from Sgt. Mattsen describing a two-day CSAM operation in Shoreline

Barringer, Chris

Subject: RE: (FYI Only) FW: CSAM Op

From: Stensland, Ted
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 9:12 AM
To: Urquhart, John
Cc: Kirkpatrick, Anne
Subject: (FYI Only) FW: CSAM Op

Recap of Commercial Sexual Abuse of Minors (CSAM) operation in the City of Shoreline. The important numbers below are the arrest of one pimp and 2 adults who had the intent to engage in sex with minors, (The CSAM arrests.) This is the second operation led by Mike Garske against CSAM targets, and we will conduct several more in the coming months.

*Major Ted J. Stensland
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This email and any attachment(s), forwards or references are for the exclusive use of the intended recipient and may contain private, confidential or privileged information. If you have received this message in error, kindly reply to the sender and then delete it.

From: Mattsen, Jon
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 8:44 AM
To: Hodgson, Joseph
Cc: Stensland, Ted
Subject: CSAM Op

Joe-

Just some very rough numbers from the two day Operation.

Mike and Kimberly, with a little help from Steve J., made over 1600 (!!) contacts in direct anticipation or during this operation to try and lure these very specific individuals out.

- We made 7 prostitution arrests (all young ladies that at least appeared PRIOR to contact on the street to be underage...all adults though, some barely);
- 2 VUCSA arrests (1 w/Intent, 1 possession);
- 1 strong PIMP arrest;
- 2 CSAM arrests;
- Towed two vehicles for search warrants (one we KNOW has a gun in it); and
- Will be doing several other search warrants on recovered bags or phones for evidence support.

A few glitches and a few process things for next time, probably in January, but all-in-all a great job by Luke and Mike, with Metro SET, Shoreline Street Crimes and Brian Taylor from SeaTac.

Just letting you know.

Jon

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