

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2014 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 1

Resolution No. 8 -2014

Introduced by: Courtney Watson

Co Sponsored by: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, and Jennifer Terrasa

A RESOLUTION, creating a task force to study the issues associated with human trafficking in Howard County, to educate the public about human trafficking, to identify and serve victims of human trafficking, and to increase prosecution of traffickers.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted___, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn___, by the County Council on _____, 2014.

Certified By _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, trafficking is the use of force, threat of force, fraud or coercion to
2 recruit, harbor, transport, provide or obtain any person for labor or commercial sex or to
3 cause a person under 18 to engage in a commercial sex act; and

4 **WHEREAS**, every year, millions of men, women and children are trafficked in
5 countries around the world, including the United States, and it is estimated that human
6 trafficking is a \$32 billion per year industry, second only to drug trafficking as the most
7 profitable form of transnational crime; and

8 **WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a hidden crime, as victims rarely come forward
9 to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law
10 enforcement; and

11 **WHEREAS**, due to the County’s location along the I-95 and I-70 corridors,
12 Howard County serves as a central geographic zone for human trafficking; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Police Department states that since 2010 the
14 number of human trafficking cases has grown, requiring additional resources to address
15 human trafficking; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the State of Maryland has passed and considered a number of bills
17 that seek to offer additional protections to potential victims while increasing penalties for
18 perpetrators; and

19 **WHEREAS**, it is necessary to establish a collaborative body of organizations in
20 Howard County to formally adopt a consistent and sustained effort to combat this modern
21 day slavery; to apply for all available grant funding from the Department of Justice, and
22 to work to establish a victims services network to free and aide victims of both sex
23 trafficking and domestic worker trafficking; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Section 902 of the Howard County Charter authorizes the creation
25 of temporary advisory boards of citizens to study policies and issues.

26
27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard
28 County, Maryland, this ____ day of _____ 2014 that there is a task force
29 established to:

- 1 1. facilitate more coordinated anti-trafficking efforts in the County through protocol
2 development, extensive community outreach, proactive investigations, law
3 enforcement training efforts, intelligence sharing, forming partnerships between
4 law enforcement and non-governmental organizations, and the creation of a
5 specialized law enforcement core group;
- 6 2. increase identification rates of human trafficking victims in the County, including
7 domestic and transnational victims of both sex and labor trafficking;
- 8 3. aide in the establishment of a provider network to provide comprehensive services
9 to victims of trafficking; and
- 10 4. increase the prosecution of traffickers, criminally and, where appropriate, civilly.

11
12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall consist of the
13 following members:

- 14 1. A member of the County Council, selected by the majority, who shall serve as
15 Vice-Chair;
- 16 2. The Administrator of the Office of Human Rights or the Administrator's
17 representative, who shall serve as Chair;
- 18 3. The State's Attorney or the State's Attorney's representative;
- 19 4. The Chief of Police or the Chief's representative;
- 20 5. A representative from the Howard County Commission for Women;
- 21 6. The Director of Social Services or the Director's representative;
- 22 7. The Health Officer or the Health Officer's representative;
- 23 8. The Sheriff or the Sheriff's representative;
- 24 9. The Administrative Judge of the Howard County Circuit Court or the
25 Administrative Judge's representative;
- 26 10. A representative from the Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking;
- 27 11. A representative from the Howard County Public Schools;
- 28 12. Two representatives from non-profit organizations; and
- 29 13. Two representatives from the faith based community.

30

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall present its findings and
2 recommendations to the County Council on or before October 1, 2014.

3

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council Administrator shall assign
5 appropriate staff to assist the Human Trafficking Task Force in its work.