

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 5

RESOLUTION NO. 45 - 2020

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sara Cochran to the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council.

Introduced and read first time on April 6, 2020.

By order Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on April 20, 2020.

By order Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn by the County Council on May 4, 2020.

Certified by Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

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

Sara CochranExperience and interest in the fight against human trafficking:

- April, 2011: Co-founder, Ho Co AGAST (Advocacy Group Against Slavery & Trafficking)

Mission Statement: Ho Co AGAST is an all-volunteer citizen's advocacy group with goals to educate our community about Human Trafficking in the U.S., Maryland, and Howard County; to work for stronger laws to combat it; to prevent individuals from becoming trapped in sexual and labor exploitation; and to support victim service providers.

- January, 2013 to present: Lead Organizer for Ho Co AGAST. Among other activities, I
 - Plan and lead monthly public meetings that advance our mission statement goals (see attached January, 2020 agenda)
 - Publish a monthly newsletter to 850 subscribers (see attached January, 2020 newsletter)
 - December, 2017-December 2018: served on the Ho Co Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council
 - December, 2018-November, 2019: served on the planning committee for the 2nd annual Howard County Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Conference
 - December, 2012-December, 2019: Organized the publicity, collection and delivery of hundreds of gift bags for AGAST's annual Holiday Gift Bag project. See attached January agenda for 2019 details
 - October, 2019: Submitted written testimony to the Ho Co Council in support of a permanent Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council
 - December, 2015: Gave oral testimony to Howard County's Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly and in March, 2017 to the Ho Co Council in support of the Ho Co Massage Establishments Regulation which passed in April, 2017
 - December, 2013: Gave a Human Trafficking 101 presentation to the Ho Co Council which resulted in the establishment of Howard County's first Human Trafficking Task Force
 - March-December, 2014: Served on the Ho Co Human Trafficking Task Force
 - Attend state and national conferences to keep current on anti-trafficking news, such as the 1.27.20 Maryland Labor Trafficking Symposium, featuring Attorney General Brian Frosh as keynote speaker; the Maryland Child Trafficking Conferences (2018, 2019); the Maryland Victims' Rights Conferences (2017, 2016); and the Governor's Conferences on Combating Human Trafficking (May, 2012-2015)

Why I am interested in serving on the Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council

Ten years ago, when I learned about the despicable actions of human traffickers, I was saddened and angry and compelled to join other abolitionists fighting this modern-day slavery. Driven by greed and profit, traffickers are enriching themselves by preying on the weak and the marginalized among us such as unsuspecting children and youth, women and men, the homeless, immigrants, and foreign nationals. Traffickers are controlling their victims through threats, deception, and violence, forcing them to perform sex acts or labor for little or no pay, thus robbing them of their human dignity and rights. These unfortunate persons are treated like objects that are bought and sold, used up, and then tossed aside when no longer profitable. Victims of human trafficking suffer such complex physical, psychological and emotional trauma that a lifetime may not be long enough to heal them. This exploitation is not acceptable. Justice demands that human trafficking be eliminated. I am committed to working for a world where every person is free and able to live their lives fully and joyfully.

Ho Co AGAST Newsletter sent January 11, 2020 (Advocacy Group Against Slavery & Trafficking)

Good Afternoon,

- Today, Saturday, January 11, The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Blue Campaign hosts #WearBlueDay, its largest one-day awareness initiative of the year. #WearBlueDay encourages the public to wear blue – the international color of human trafficking awareness – and post photos of themselves, or with friends, family, or colleagues, on social media with #WearBlueDay to raise awareness of this heinous crime.
Why not forward this newsletter to a friend to raise their awareness and encourage them to take action?
- All are welcome to join our discussions at AGAST's next meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 7-9 PM, at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center (www.obicolumbia.org).
- **HEARTFELT THANKS** to all who so lovingly prepared a Holiday Gift Bag. This year, AGAST distributed about 235 gift bags to 10 organizations in our area who encourage and support human trafficking survivors and those who are at risk of being trafficked. With generous cash donations we were also able to purchase items that the Human Trafficking Unit of Howard Co Police Department requested: fleece hoodies and pants, blankets, and snacks. To quote 2 thank-you letters, the gift bags "put a smile on a lot of faces!!" and the "gifts mean a lot to our clients".

Human Trafficking in the News:

- "County Executive Ball Seeks Members for Howard County's Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council" (1.8.20):
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/1804/News010820b>.
- "Nonprofits, medical profession tackle human trafficking as a health-care crisis" (see attached, from Washington Post, 1.4.20)

Upcoming Events:

- January 23, 7-8:30 PM: Workshop "Recognizing Human Trafficking" presented by Hope Works of Howard County, hosted by the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville. For more information and to register, please see <https://rccbbonsecours.com/event/workshop-recognizing-human-trafficking/>.
- Thursday, January 9, 2020 Thursday, January 30, revised date for The Samaritan Women Open House. Morning (8-10 AM), Evening (4-6 PM). For more information or to RSVP, please see <https://thesamaritanwomen.org/events/>.
- Wednesday, March 11, 7-8 PM: "Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention" program. Learn to recognize warning signs of sex and labor trafficking, and how to help potential victims, in an informative discussion with Andrea Nunez, Manager, Howard County Office of Human Trafficking Prevention. HCLS Central Branch 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway Columbia, MD 21044. Registration required.

Recommended Reading: The January issue of "Stop Trafficking!" (see attached) focuses on the intersection of migration and human trafficking. On page 5 in the "Action" section, you can learn about 2 bills in Congress and are urged to contact your legislators in support of them:

1. The Child Trafficking Victims Protection and Welfare Act of 2019 (Senate bill 661; H.R. bill 3729)
- and 2. The Central American Women and Children Protection Act (Senate bill 1781).

Wishing you peace, health and prosperity as we begin a New Year,
Sara, for Ho Co AGAST



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Meeting Agenda, Wednesday, January 29, 2020

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love." Martin Luther King, Jr.

❖ Remembering Judy Colligan, a founder of Ho Co AGAST

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FYI:

- See table for Nov. meeting agenda items: "What Howard County Human Trafficking Unit is Doing" (from 11.8.19 Conference); "Women and 'Sex Work'" report to the UN Women's group + "Exploitation as a Surrogate" (women trafficked to have babies); Nov. agenda; new AGAST business cards
- **"Police charge Columbia man with sex crimes against minor, Investigators seeking other victims"** (11.14.19). See jury trial date below
- Updates on **Howard County Circuit Court Jury trials.**
 9.23.19, On 12/4/19, Miguel Angel Osegueda Cortez pled guilty to 4th degree sex offense; hearing disposition 3.5.20//~~10.23.19~~, Wenbo Wang (female), case went to federal level, closed in Ho Co// On 10.28.19, Rakiyah Crudup (female), case closed, took a plea//~~10.30.19~~, DeAngelo Johnson, case closed in Ho Co, now at federal level // ~~1.6.2020 jury trial~~ Zhongmei Zhang: On 1.2.20 State's Atty Natasha Blount wrote: "The defense attorney needs time to file motions. We are probably looking at about 2 months from now for motions and trial."// 1.28.20 jury trial Ronald Willis Cheek//11.7.19 arrest of Timothy Jamar Ford; jury trial 4.28.20 (held without bond, 1 count sex trafficking, 1 ct prostitution, 2 cts rape 2nd degree, 1 ct sex offense 3rd degree, 1 ct child porn film in sex act)

AGAST's Compassion Brigade members wear red and are present in the public courtroom during jury trials to support survivors of human trafficking and prosecuting attorneys.

To learn more about defendants and the alleged offenses, go to **the Maryland Judiciary Case Search** site; after 4 PM the day previous to a trial date, go to the **Ho Co Circuit Court docket** site to make sure the trial is still scheduled and in what courtroom: <https://www.mdcourts.gov/circuit/ho/hocrdocket.pdf>.

- **"County Executive Ball Seeks Members for Howard County's Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council"** (1.8.20): <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News/ArticleID/1804/News010820b>
- Other announcements?

REPORTS FROM WHAT WE'VE DONE SINCE OUR LAST MEETING (Wed, November 20)

- **December 9, "Meeting on HT next steps"** led by Andrea Nunez, Office of Human Trafficking Prevention Manager (Leslie, Mark, Kathy)

• **2019 wrap-up of Holiday Gift Bag project:**

This is the 8th year that Howard County AGAST (Advocacy Group Against Slavery & Trafficking) has donated holiday gift bags to organizations in the area who serve survivors of human trafficking and those at risk to being trafficked. This year, we have donated 10 of the gift bags to Ho Co FIRN (Foreign-Born Information Referral Network (<https://www.firnonline.org/>); 25 to Ho Co's Hope Works (<https://wearehopeworks.org/>); 40 to the UMD SAFE Center in College Park (<https://www.umdsafecenter.org/>); 10 to Catherine's Cottage (Balt. City) (<https://salvationarmycm.org/catherines-cottage/>); 20 to Drink at the Well (Balt. City) (<https://www.drinkatthewell.org/>); 45 to Power Inside (Baltimore City) (<https://powerinside.org/>); 15 to Turn Around (Balt. City) (<https://turnaroundinc.org/>); 35 to The Samaritan Women's street outreach ministry (Baltimore City) (<https://instituteofsheltercare.org/>); 13 to Ho Co Bridges to Housing Stability (<http://bridges2hs.org/>); and 20 to Helping Up Mission Women's Center (Baltimore City) (<https://helpingupmission.org/womens-video/>).

With cash and check donations, v. purchased for the Human Trafficking Unit c Howard Co Police Department items they requested: 4 fleece hoodies and 4 sweat pants; (8) 50x70 blankets; and 18 assorted snacks.

Finances: Collected \$180 in checks and \$154 in cash, for a total of \$334. Spent \$83.79 on hoodies and pants, 42.32 on blankets and \$18.18 on snacks for a total of \$144.29. // \$334 - \$144.29 = **\$190 remaining.**

Kristin Lilly has posted photos of Nov. conference and Holiday Gift Bag project deliveries on AGAST's Facebook and Twitter sites.

- **Tues, Jan 21: Cathie L presents HT 101 to Glen Mar Church United Methodist Women's group**
- **Mon, Jan 27, 11:30 AM: Creation of a Red Sand Project sidewalk installation** in front of George Howard Bldg, Ellicott City, to officially commemorate January as human trafficking prevention and awareness month in Howard County. The Red Sand Project is a popular worldwide initiative to raise awareness. Curious? Go to <https://redsandproject.org>. The site has survivor stories, recommended films, books, statistics, and more.
- **Tues, Jan 28: Jury trial of Ronald Willis Cheek**
- **Wed, Jan 29, 9AM-1 PM, Maryland Labor Trafficking Symposium, UMD College Park:** featuring Attorney General Brian Frosh as keynote speaker. Topics of discussion: Maryland's new labor trafficking statute, Local and national labor trafficking case studies, National best practices for addressing labor trafficking at the state level.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES/EVENTS:

- **Thurs, January 30, Morning (8-10 AM), or Evening (4-6 PM): The Samaritan Women Open House.** For more information or to RSVP, please see <https://thesamaritanwomen.org/events/>. (Sara....)
- **Wed, February 12, 10:30AM-1:30 PM: "Behind Closed Doors, the Untold Truths of Human Trafficking" panel,** Miller Library, sponsored by the Women's Council of Realtors, Ho Co Network (Mark, Sara)
- **Wed, February 19, 7-9 PM, AGAST's next meeting,** Owen Brown Interfaith Center (www.obicolumbia.org) .
- **Wednesday, March 11, 7-8 PM: "Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention" program.** Learn to recognize warning signs of sex and labor trafficking, and how to help potential victims, in an informative discussion with Andrea Nunez, Manager, Howard County Office of Human Trafficking Prevention. HCLS Central Branch 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway Columbia, MD 21044. **Registration required.**

LEGISLATION: 441st Session of the Maryland General Assembly January 8-April 6, 2020

- **HB (House bill) 242 "Criminal Procedure - Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020)".** Writes Andrea Nunez: "Would allow trafficking victims to have certain less serious criminal convictions vacated from their records and help them rebuild their lives post-trafficking." Sponsored by Ho Co Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary in the House Judiciary Committee. Hearing 1/28/20 at 1 PM. **Cross-filed with SB (Senate bill) 206,** sponsored by Senators Lee, Carter, Elfreh, Ellis, Guzzone, Hester, Kagan, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lam, McCray, Patterson, Pinsky, Smith, Sydnor, Waldstreicher, West, Young, and Zucker. Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee hearing 1/29.
- **HB 382 "Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training"** Requiring an innkeeper to maintain a computerized record-keeping system of all guest transactions and receipts; requiring that certain records be kept for not less than 6 months from the date of the creation of the record; requiring the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Labor to approve an educational training program and a refresher training program for identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking; providing certain requirements for a certain training program; etc. Sponsored by Ho Co Delegate Eric Ebersole, Boyce, Chang, Charkoudian, Feldmark, Lierman, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Qi, Shetty, Solomon, Terrasa, and C. Watson in the House Economic Matters Cmte. **No Cross-file. Writes Andrea Nunez:** " I've confirmed with the County Executive we'll be supporting Del. Atterbeary's vacatur bill and Del. Ebersole's hotel training bill this session. Both of those bills I will be testifying on his behalf in support. If you all are interested those would be great opportunities to come down to Annapolis and watch the discussion live and in person. "