



focus on anti-human trafficking efforts, which includes training, outreach, investigative operations, and following up on numerous tips and leads. As part of the police sergeant's duties, he also works with the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking, as discussed below. The Department also provides human trafficking information and a list of resources on its' web site<sup>2</sup>. SJPD identified and investigated 45 potential victims in 2013 and 54 potential victims in 2014. A potential victim is defined as any person identified during the course of an investigation where trafficking is potentially occurring.

SJPD works closely with the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking (SBCEHT), whose mission is to ensure the protection of victims, prosecution of offenders, and the prevention of human trafficking and slavery through an effective, coordinated partnership. SBCEHT was established in early 2005 to create a multidisciplinary response to human trafficking in the South Bay Area. It is a collaborative of community-based nonprofit organizations, providing comprehensive services to victims of trafficking in persons. The Law Enforcement Committee of SBCEHT is headed by SJPD and its purpose is to oversee public outreach, education, and training efforts with law enforcement. The committee also provides investigative assistance and guidance to law enforcement agencies to assist in successful prosecution of offenders.

In the recent past, SJPD has been the recipient of anti-human trafficking grant funding. As part of the 2012 State Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Grant, the Department received approximately \$267,000 for the following activities: (a) overtime for investigations, proactive enforcement and undercover operations; (b) consultant services for victims, such as shelter, intensive care management, crisis intervention, and mental health treatment; and (c) supplies and equipment, such as recording devices and night vision equipment. As part of this state program, SJPD partnered with Community Solutions to provide consultant services for victims, such as shelter, intensive care management, crisis intervention, and mental health treatment. Within the state grant, funding in the amount of \$50,000 was set aside for an Agreement with Community Solutions; the term of the Agreement was from October 2012 to June 2014. The grant program ended in June 2014, as the State redirected funding to other programs.

Knowing the State Anti-Human Trafficking grant funding was coming to an end, the San José City Council approved a mid-year budget action in 2013-2014, to provide a one-time allocation from the General Fund to SBCEHT to fund a coordinator position that supports the work of the coalition. An Agreement with Community Solutions was executed as the fiscal agent for SBCEHT, with a term of April 15, 2014, to April 15, 2015. As part of the 2014-2015 Adopted Operating Budget, City Council approved another one-time allocation of \$50,000 in order to avoid an interruption of these services. The Department is in the process of extending the existing Agreement with this additional funding for the new term of April 16, 2015, to April 15, 2016. The 2014-2015 Adopted Operating Budget also included one-time overtime funding of \$100,000 to support the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force activities.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.sjpd.org/BOI/Sexual\\_Assaults/stopht/](http://www.sjpd.org/BOI/Sexual_Assaults/stopht/)

## ANALYSIS

Human trafficking is an estimated \$32 billion-a-year global industry. After drug trafficking, human trafficking is the world's second most profitable criminal enterprise. California - a populous border state with a significant immigrant population and the world's ninth largest economy - is one of the nation's top destinations for trafficking in persons. There has been an exponential increase in the identification of human trafficking victims with a corresponding need for services. The Department anticipates these numbers will only increase over the next few years given the heightened focus on human trafficking in the South Bay region.

To this end, the Department recently applied for a new federal grant program to address these issues. If awarded, the new programming will address these unmet needs by combatting these five points:

- Lack of awareness and misconceptions in public sectors as well as the community at large about the lesser-known forms of human trafficking;
- Inconsistent and insufficient practice of collaboration amongst existing and emerging anti-trafficking responders;
- Inconsistent and insufficient implementation of best practices of trauma-informed, victim-centered services amongst emerging anti-trafficking responders;
- Lack of awareness of lesser-known forms of human trafficking, such as labor trafficking, among law enforcement agencies; and
- Need for better coordination with state and federal law enforcement agency to improve investigations and prosecutions.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime recently released a grant solicitation for an enhanced collaborative model to combat human trafficking. The application was due May 11, 2015, and if awarded, the program is expected to be for two years commencing October 1, 2015. This grant application requires a collaborative approach and a joint application between SJPD and its collaborative partners was submitted. The Department has applied for these funds in conjunction with Santa Clara University (specifically through the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, a project of the Santa Clara University School of Law), who are part of the SBCEHT. If awarded, the City and Santa Clara University will each receive \$750,000 over a two year period for anti-human trafficking programming.

The proposal included overtime funding to run a total of 42 investigative operations, as well as 36 proactive patrol operations in known hotspots. Both types of operations will target the human trafficking victim and the trafficker. Overtime will be utilized for planning operations to identify victims, investigating, interviewing, and patrolling areas of possible human trafficking. Additionally, the proposal includes funding for professional development training for improving response to victims, investigations, and prosecutions. Funding will also be allocated for minor technology needs, presentation needs, translation services, program evaluations, and outreach and education materials to increase community awareness. As part of the proposed grant program, the Department plans to take advantage of the Super Bowl 50 spotlight during the

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winter of 2016 to increase awareness through education and media announcements, as well as additional enforcement activities.

Outside of this grant opportunity, the Department also has anti-human trafficking resources in the form of targeted enforcement through suppression cars. This overtime allocation can be used to target high crime activity such as gang enforcement or prostitution and these activities are often linked to human trafficking activities. In addition, as discussed above, the department has funding in 2014-2015 to continue an agreement with Community Solutions to support a coordinator position through April 2016.

### **CONCLUSION**

Local data estimating the prevalence of this crime is not well established, yet due to the diversity of San José as well as the youth population, it is clear that many victims exist. All Department staff including Crime Prevention, Airport, Gang Investigations, and Patrol are aware of and look for signs of human trafficking. Should the Department be awarded the grant funding noted above, further efforts to combat human trafficking can be made. If grant funding is not forthcoming, the Department will continue to work with the Coalition to combat human trafficking; however, resources will limit the amount of proactive investigations, not fully addressing the growing demands, and limit education of the community.

/s/

LARRY ESQUIVEL  
CHIEF OF POLICE