



Police Review Board
ACTION MINUTES

Thursday, February 17, 2022

5:00 pm-Private Briefing

6:08 pm- Public Meeting

201 S. Anaheim Blvd

Gordon Hoyt Conference Room-Second Floor

Acting Chairperson: Ryan Wagner

Vice Chairperson: Vacant

Board Members Present: Jason Khoo, Daisy Chavez and Diana VanKirk

Board Members Absent: Mayra Gomez, JoAnn Nau

Staff Members Present: Lylyana Bogdanovich, Sergeant Juan Reveles

OIR Group Members Present: Stephen Connolly

- **Call to Order – 6:08 p.m.**

Acting Chair Ryan Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

- **Approval of Minutes – January Police Review Board Meeting**

MOTION: Member Jason Khoo requested revisions on page 5 of draft minutes. Members Nau, Khoo and Gomez were incorrectly referenced as Chair instead of Member. Approved as amended by Member Jason Khoo. Second by Member Diana VanKirk.

- **Public Comments**

Public Comments on any agenda items or subject matter within the scope of the Police Review Board. Please note: Individual audience participation is three minutes per speaker.

There were no public comments at this time.

Presentation on the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, given by Sgt. Juan Reveles as follows:

- Sgt. Reveles explained that today's presentation will be given by himself and two other partners within the collaborative task force which addresses human trafficking across Orange County.
- Sgt. Reveles introduced Nicole Strattman from County of Orange Social Services and, Waymakers Program Manager Michelle Heater.
- Nicole Strattman introduced herself as a program manager with the County of Orange Social Services Agency. She explained that she has coordinated the program that works with commercially and sexually exploited children (CSEC) since 2014.

- The most vulnerable victims of human trafficking are youth that have been part of the foster care system or that have experienced a prior child abuse incident.
- Because of SB-1322 which was signed in 2017, children can no longer be arrested for prostitution.
- Ms. Strattman shared visual aids, depicting examples of a CSEC victim's typical history.
- Michelle Heater introduced herself as a program director with Waymakers, victims' assistance programs. This group works as a co-lead of the OCHTT, alongside APD and County of Orange Social Services Agency.
- Waymakers helps by providing victim advocates which respond 24/7 when a law enforcement call is received.
- Waymakers also provides victims with a variety of services that they are entitled to, according to the California penal code.
- These victims' assistance programs help both minors and adults with food, clothes, shelter and other resources.
- In order for OCHTT to be successful, communication between all community partners is key.
- Sgt. Reveles explained that law enforcement is going through a paradigm shift. Society is changing the way the prostitution is viewed. In reality this is a human trafficking problem
- APD has partnered with Waymakers since 2010.
- OCHTT is used as an example that other counties in California are following.
- OCHTT allows law enforcement to work together across jurisdictions.
- Sgt. Reveles shared that human trafficking is practiced by using force, fear and coercion. A pimp is someone that benefits from human trafficking.
- In 2017 the law was changed and minor can no longer be arrested for prostitution. Minors working in prostitution are always automatically treated as victims of human trafficking.
- However, Anaheim had already stopped arresting minors for prostitution in 2014, before the law was changed.
- Human Trafficking is known as modern-day slavery because traffickers control every aspect of the victims' lives.
- Victims often have to meet a quota of at least \$1,000 per day before they can eat or sleep and cannot take days off.
- Victims are not usually kidnapped. Pimps prey on the vulnerability of minors that have been abused.
- OCHTT responders put an emphasis on providing victims with dignity, especially when making contact for the first time. This is called a victim centered approach.
- Only about 10% of trafficking transactions happen on the street. Transactions also happen via the internet, illegal massage parlors, residential brothels and escort agencies.

- When adult sex workers are detained, law enforcement must still investigate whether or not they are being forced/trafficked.
- Victims often protect pimps/traffickers due to trauma bonding and false sense of family and security.

The full presentation is available at <http://www.anaheim.net/PRB>.

The Board asked a number of questions regarding the presentation.

Member VanKirk mentioned that she volunteers with several organizations, where she works with youth. She asked if there are any signs of a human trafficking victim that the community can look out for. Sgt. Reveles responded by saying that community needs to be aware that most victims are not kidnapped, but go to the traffickers for security and love. Ms. Strattman also suggested that community members ask teachers, law enforcement and health professionals if they are trained to look for signs of human trafficking. Ms. Heater also encouraged everyone to vote, since there is so much legislation that affects the prevention of human trafficking. Sgt. Reveles added that human trafficking is not yet considered a violent felony in California.

Member Khoo shared that he has lived near Beach Blvd his whole life and was not aware that human trafficking is prevalent in the area. He mentioned that the presentation had a profound effect on him as a local. He also asked who he can call if he suspects that someone is a victim of trafficking. Sgt. Reveles answered that the quickest way to respond would be to call your local law enforcement agency. When it comes to reporting children, people should call the child abuse hotline.

Chair Wagner asked if the new cameras on Beach Blvd. have been helpful with addressing human trafficking. Sgt. Reveles said yes, the cameras are so effective that many street workers have moved to other cities. Chair Wagner also asked if there is a network above the pimps that they answer to. Sgt. Reveles answered that most pimps are independent.

Member VanKirk noticed that many people object to cameras being placed on Beach Blvd. Lylyana Bogdanovich mentioned that she believes that this is why educational awareness is important. Many people who do not live near Beach Blvd. are aware of the crime that happens in the area.

Sgt. Reveles mentioned that the cameras on Beach Blvd. are effective tools against human trafficking minors. This is more than simply a prostitution issue.

Member Daisy Chavez thanked the group for this presentation. She was impressed by how much useful information was shared.

- **Anaheim Board Election – Chair and Vice Chair**

Lylyana Bogdanovich shared that Member Khoo had indicated interest in serving as Chair and Member Chavez is interested in serving as Vice Chair. There were no objections to this, therefore Member Khoo was elected as Chair and Member Chavez as Vice Chair.

- **District 2 Appointment**

Lylyana Bogdanovich mentioned that the lottery for this vacancy was drawn today. Staff is waiting to confirm with the individual and complete a background check before they can share the name with the board.

- **Board Comments**

Member Chavez suggested that photos of board meetings be added to the PRB website, in order to educate the public about the board. Lylyana confirmed that this is something that can be done.

Member Khoo expressed his appreciation for today's presentation.

Member VanKirk shared her experience volunteering with youth victims of human trafficking.

Member Chavez shared that she recently participated in a ride-along with CCRT. She was appreciative for the experience and the staff members that she interacted with.

- **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Ryan Wagner adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.