



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

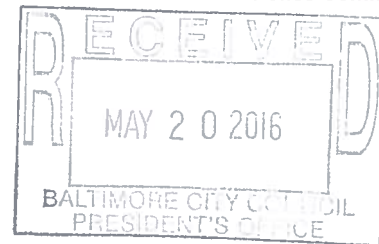


Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

Kevin Davis
Police Commissioner

May 24, 2016

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

**Re: City Council Bill No. 16-0661
Adult Entertainment Businesses – National Human Trafficking Resource
Center Hotline Information Sign Posting**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

The Baltimore Police Department (BPD or the Department) has reviewed Council Bill 16-0661. This bill would require adult-entertainment businesses to post a National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline information sign in each of the establishment's restrooms. The Department is pleased to take a favorable position on this legislation.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where individuals are bought, sold, smuggled and often forced to work as prostitutes. The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally, with hundreds of thousands in the United States.¹ Logic, as well as the Department's experience, tells us that human trafficking is occurring within the borders of Baltimore City. While there is no single profile of a victim of human trafficking, there are several risk factors that make certain individuals particularly vulnerable to trafficking. These risk factors include runaway and homeless youth, youth in the foster care system, foreign nationals, and individuals who have experienced violence and trauma in the past. The Department has units dedicated to investigating human trafficking of both adults and juveniles, and works with the State's Attorneys' Office and federal partners to build and prosecute cases. The Department welcomes CB 16-0661 because every effort should be made to inform victims of assistance that is available to them. This information could be a lifeline for someone who believes they have no options for help. Furthermore, it is possible that calls made to the NHTRC hotline will provide information and intelligence that the Department can investigate and use to bring criminal charges against the individuals and organizations committing these atrocious acts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Department looks forward to working with the City Council on this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Vetter
Director of Government Affairs

¹ <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/what-human-trafficking/human-trafficking/victims>