

## Response to Questions on the FY 2017 Budget

**Request By:** Supervisor Gross

**Question:** Please provide additional information on the status of the Human Trafficking Grant. How will it be funded if grant funding goes away? Also please provide information on human trafficking-related training provided to police officers beyond those working directly on the program.

**Response:** On April 9, 2013, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Police Department to apply for and accept funding of \$666,667 and 2/2.0 FTE grant positions from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance and Office of Victims of Crime to support the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force. The funding associated with this grant was originally set to expire on September 30, 2015; however, the agency requested and received an extension until March 31, 2016. The agency's general fund budget will absorb the fiscal impact associated with these positions for the remainder of the fiscal year. Finally, it is important to note that the agency received formal notification on October 13, 2015 that they will not receive additional grant funding for these positions for the October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 period.

The County Executive has included funding of \$333,509 and 2/2.0 FTE merit positions as part of the FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan so that work performed for the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force can continue. If the positions and funding are not approved, work associated with human trafficking criminal complaints will continue as the Police Department investigates all crimes and is required to uphold all laws which include those associated with human trafficking. However, not funding these positions would increase the workload of detectives tasked with investigating cases not associated with human trafficking. The Department's ability to fight human trafficking crimes in a timely manner would be impacted as the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force cannot be supported locally and regionally and will have to be folded into the duties of current staff. Additionally, activities associated with assisting other non-law enforcement partners with education and prevention partnerships which have resulted in a reduction in the number of offenses would have to be eliminated.

Currently, an overview providing basic information related to human trafficking, including legal definitions, applicable laws and situations that patrol officers may encounter is included as part of basic training for recruits. In addition, the Police Department offers two additional trainings related to Human Trafficking:

- Human Trafficking 101 is an eight hour course that provides an overview of what human trafficking is, defines human trafficking, and differentiates between the types of trafficking present in Northern Virginia. In addition, the course provides insight into victimization and some basic investigative techniques.
- Deviant Groups is a week-long course focusing on various deviant groups which devotes a specific day to human trafficking with a focus on victimization and the lack of empathy of offenders.

While these courses are not mandatory, the Police Department encourages officers to attend to enhance their ability to identify and investigate cases related to human trafficking.