

Response to Questions on the FY 2017 Budget

Request By: Chairman Bulova

Question: Please assess the status of the County's response to human trafficking with the current resources and staffing model.

Response: Funding of \$333,509 was included in the FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan to support the conversion of 2/2.0 FTE grant positions, that perform work for the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, into merit positions as the grant funding utilized to support these positions has expired. These positions perform critical work for the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, which is a collaboration of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies dedicated to combating human trafficking and related crimes.

This funding consists of \$198,377 in Personnel Expenses, \$112,678 in Fringe Benefits, and \$22,454 in Operating Expenses and supports 1/1.0 FTE Police Officer II and 1/1.0 FTE Crime Analyst I. Both of these positions dedicate 100 percent of their time to investigating and providing analytical analysis related to human trafficking cases. It is important to note that the Crime Analyst I position has been vacant since July 24, 2015 based on a change of personnel and the department being informed that grant funding would not be renewed. The department has indicated that this position is critical to long-term success of the task force and would be filled following approval of the requested positions and funding.

For additional background - 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 expired on September 30, 2015; however, the Police Department has maintained the program in the interim until the funding in the FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan could be secured.

The Police Department (FCPD) is currently working on revising the model by which Human Trafficking cases are going to be investigated. The original model, which was established following receipt of the grant, was primarily focused on the priorities of the federal organizations involved in the task force. The revised model focuses on local/regional priorities. FCPD's effort will now fall under the Major Crimes Bureau, and will work with the US Attorney's office, local advocacy groups, and with federal partners to design a network of resources that can be utilized during investigations. FCPD will also increase its networking with local partners to provide investigative assistance as cases warrant.

As the Police Department is reworking the model by which Human Trafficking cases are investigated with the intention of keeping them more locally focused, it is not known if additional positions beyond these two dedicated positions will be required; however, FCPD will come back to the Board with an update in 6-12 months as the program structure is redefined and better data is collected.