



Attorney

From: JLSB President <president@jlsantabarbara.org>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 4:43 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Nelson, Bob; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Hart, Gregg
Subject: Letter of Support from Junior League of Santa Barbara
Attachments: Pg1 - HT Detective Support - Letter to SB Supervisors.pdf; Pg2- HT Detective Support - Letter to SB Supervisors.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors Hart, Hartmann, Lavagnino, Nelson, and Williams;

I hope this email finds you in good health and spirits! My name is Raina Palta and I am the current President of the Junior League of Santa Barbara (JLSB), a non-profit organization of women volunteers that has been working to improve the greater Santa Barbara community for over 97 years.

The JLSB would like to express support for an item at the upcoming April 12th, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting: County funding for a dedicated Human Trafficking Detective. Attached you will find a letter that details our support of this critical need.

I do apologize if this is not the best way to send this letter; I have been trying to find an address or other electronic method to submit our letter ahead of the meeting. It has been difficult to find clarity on that and I do hope this letter finds the Board ahead of the meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Raina

—
Raina Palta, MS | President 2021-23 | The Junior League of Santa Barbara
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Monday, April 4, 2022

Attention: Supervisors Hart, Hartmann, Lavagnino, Nelson, and Williams

Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

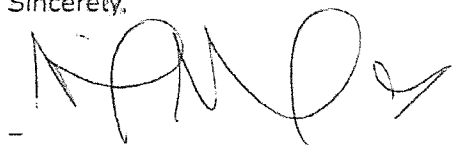
My name is Raina Palta and I am the President of The Junior League of Santa Barbara, Inc. (JLSB), a women-volunteer powered non-profit that has been serving the Santa Barbara community for over 97 years. I am writing to express our support for retaining at least one County-budgeted and dedicated Human Trafficking Detective position as a key part of the law enforcement needs in Santa Barbara County. As the JLSB understands it, the Sherriff's Office is requesting County funding for a currently grant-funded Human Trafficking Detective position, for which funding will end at some point this year. Santa Barbara, both City and County, are known for hubs of sex trafficking beacuse they are along the 101 corridor. A specific Human Trafficking Detective is necessary in preventing those most vulnerable from current or future exploitation.

The JLSB has had a representative sit on the Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force (SBCHTTF) since it was first established in 2014. Through attending task force meetings, the JLSB and our members have become educated by first-responders and other experts around the SBCHTTF table, especially the Human Trafficking Detectives and others in local law enforcement. This education lead to our non-profit adopting a specific focus area in 2015 to improve the lives of women and girls who are at-risk for sex trafficking by empowering them to reach their full potential and working to prevent exploitation locally. Since adopting this focus area, the JLSB has been a major supporter of anti-trafficking and rehabilitative efforts in Santa Barbara County, both as an individual organization and in strategic partnership with other SBCHTTF partners. Some examples of our anti-trafficking efforts locally include: launching traffickSTOPsb.org, a community awareness campaign aimed at educating the public to know the facts, signs, and what to do if trafficking is suspected; providing funding to the Santa Barbara Police Department to fund crucial anti-trafficking technology; hosting and assembling multiple panels of local experts to educate members of the public about sex trafficking locally; strategically partnering with 4 Kids 2 Kids, Inc. (4K2K) to open S.A.F.E. House Santa Barbara,

Santa Barbara County's first short-term residential, therapeutic program (STRTP) specifically for minor female survivors of sex trafficking and abuse; again partnering with 4K2K to help open a step-down program for transition age youth in Ventura County that serves to assist female survivors of sex trafficking aged 18 - 21; and recruiting the Detective to sit on our own Council of Community Advisors, which advises the JLSB on strategic matters locally. A theme across all of these examples includes direct support from the Human Trafficking Detective in some capacity, great or small. If you have any questions or want to know more about the Detective's level of involvement in each item, I am happy to describe these in detail upon request.

In addition to the support the SBCHTTF and Human Trafficking Detective have provided the JLSB, the Detective is involved in hundreds of operations and investigations, including 108 proactive operations and 124 additional investigations between 2017 - 2021. Prior to the creation of the SBCHTTF, the County was largely ineffectual at combatting human trafficking in our county. Simply put, without a Human Trafficking Detective, Santa Barbara County will not have any law enforcement officially dedicated to human trafficking, which will only cause cases to fall through the cracks and victims to suffer tremendously. We ask that you bravely join the JLSB and SBCHTTF partner organizations in full financial and material support for this crucial County need. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,



Raina Palta, MS

President, 2021 - 2023

The Junior League of Santa Barbara, Inc.

President@JLSantaBarbara.org