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**District 6**  
Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

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BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSION

June 25, 2019

Commissioner Peter O'Bryan  
Indian River County Board of Commissioners  
1801 27th St.  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Re: Human Trafficking Hotline Awareness Signage

Dear Commissioner <sup>Peter</sup> O'Bryan,

In 2015, the Florida Legislature passed a landmark human trafficking bill, HB 369 (now F.S. 787.29), that requires the Florida Department of Transportation to post the international human trafficking hotline on signs in transportation hubs across Florida (airports, ports, train and bus stations, and rest stops). The new law also requires emergency rooms to post the same signs. The language for the signs was outlined in the legislation as well as the requirement that signs be in English and Spanish. The signs must also be placed in a conspicuous location visible to the public and employees. It took effect January 1, 2016.

Language was also included that provided the option for local **County Commissions** to add an additional requirement for sign posting in strip clubs and adult entertainment establishments by allowing Counties to enforce the provision and fine violators. Adult entertainment establishments are defined in F.S. 847.001 as:

847.001 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

- (1) "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.
- (2) "Adult entertainment establishment" means the following terms as defined:
  - (a) "Adult bookstore" means any corporation, partnership, or business of any kind which restricts or purports to restrict admission only to adults, which has as part of its stock books, magazines, other periodicals, videos, discs, or other graphic media and which offers, sells, provides, or rents for a fee any sexually oriented material.
  - (b) "Adult theater" means an enclosed building or an enclosed space within a building used for presenting either films, live plays, dances, or other performances that are distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on matter depicting, describing, or relating to specific sexual activities for observation by patrons, and which restricts or purports to restrict admission only to adults.
  - (c) "Special Cabaret" means any business that features persons who engage in specific sexual activities for observation by patrons, and which restricts or purports to restrict admission only to adults.
  - (d) "Unlicensed massage establishment" means any business or enterprise that offers, sells, or provides, or that holds itself out as offering, selling, or providing, massages that include bathing,

physical massage, rubbing, kneading, anointing, stroking, manipulating, or other tactile stimulation of the human body by either male or female employees or attendants, by hand or by any electrical or mechanical device, on or off the premises. The term "unlicensed massage establishment" does not include an establishment licensed under s. 480.043 which routinely provides medical services by state-licensed health care practitioners and massage therapists licensed under s. 480.041.

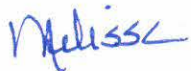
It is my understanding that your county has not yet joined the fifteen other counties throughout Florida who have passed such ordinances, and I kindly urge you to do so as soon as possible.

Human trafficking is nothing less than modern day slavery. The Legislature defines it as "transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person." It includes both sex and labor trafficking. Citizens deserve for every county to use all available resources and strategies to protect them from this scourge.

Palm Beach County was the first in the state to enact the ordinance, empowering our Code Enforcement with a new tool to help us uncover human trafficking rings. Code Enforcement has collaborated closely with our Sheriff's Office and the Department of Health to investigate and shut down multiple establishments for prostitution and human trafficking. Additionally, our Code officers and other County staff have received training to identify the signs of this horrific crime.

Again, I urge your commission to pass this ordinance to strengthen our collective efforts throughout Florida to eradicate human trafficking. Enclosed please find a copy of the Palm Beach County ordinance as well as samples of the signs we created in accordance with the statute. Additionally, please feel free to visit the Human Trafficking Prevention and Resource page we created on our County website for more information at <http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/victimservices/Pages/human-trafficking.aspx>.

Thank you,



Melissa McKinlay  
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