

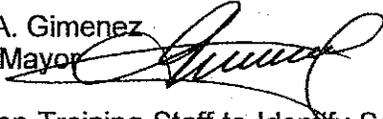
Memorandum



Date: February 14, 2012

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

PSHA
Agenda Item No. 6(A)

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
County Mayor 

Subject: Report on Training Staff to Identify Sexually Exploited Children at Miami International Airport and the Seaport

This report responds to Resolution No. R-873-11, prime-sponsored by Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz and co-sponsored by Vice-Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., adopted by the Board on October 4, 2011. The Resolution directed that a plan be drafted and implemented to train Airport and Seaport personnel to identify and respond to children in transit who are being sexually exploited. In addition, the plan was to provide ways for Miami-Dade County to partner with the airlines and the cruise lines to facilitate the training of their personnel, as well as explore the feasibility of using television screens at the Airport and Seaport to broadcast Public Service Announcements (PSA's) to encourage children who are the victims of sexual exploitation to seek help and refuge.

To this end, the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) and the Miami-Dade Seaport Department (Seaport) have partnered with Kristi House, an organization dedicated to assisting child victims of sexual abuse and their families, to develop a plan to raise awareness about child sexual trafficking and to train staff in both departments to identify sexually exploited children at their facilities. The departments will initially train staff that most often encounter passengers within the terminals, and roll out additional training in a phased approach. MDAD will also feature a public awareness campaign on MIA's CNN television monitors located throughout the airport at departure gates. Further, MDAD, Seaport and Kristi House have met with MIA's Airline Management Council and with Seaport cruise partners in an effort to introduce the organizations to the issue of child sexual trafficking and to encourage participation. Both American Airlines (AA) and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (RCCL) have agreed to participate in the program and to train their employees in this important initiative.

Specific to the plan, MDAD and/or the Seaport have finalized or are currently finalizing the details including:

- Development of protocols to provide to Kristi House (i.e. provide internal hotline telephone numbers, standard operating procedures, identification of training facilities, etc.);
- Selection of those employees that will be trained by Kristi House (train-the-trainer concept); such employees would then train the remaining Departmental employees;
- Establishment of the code an agent will use to call for help from Airport and Seaport police ("Code Kristi");
- Departmental procedures for working with the respective police units to ensure that all calls related to the identification of sexually exploited children are routed to the appropriate law enforcement agencies trained to respond promptly and appropriately;
- A "Train the Trainer" program to begin the week of February 1 concurrently at both the Airport and the Seaport; and
- Development of a 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) about the issue of child sex trafficking so that it can play wherever TV monitors are available.

Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) personnel were involved in the development of the above mentioned protocols and training guidelines, and are training Airport-based and Seaport-based police officers to recognize behavioral patterns of children transiting through MIA and the Seaport that may be exploited and/or involved in sexual trafficking. As you may be aware, MDPD's Narcotics Bureau, Organized Crime Section (OCS), investigates International/Domestic Human Trafficking and Domestic Sex Trafficking (Sex and Labor) cases involving juvenile and adult victims. The OCS continues to foster partnerships with governmental and victims advocate organizations such as the Kristi House (the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Innocence Lost Minor Vice Task Force, Immigration and Customs Enforcement South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force, Our Kids, and St. Thomas University Human Trafficking Project, to name a few). These partnerships are critical for the continued success of investigating, prosecuting illegal trafficking activity, and providing viable solutions to protect and rescue exploited victims.

Kristi House employs experienced and trained professionals to deliver best practice education programs and training. Currently, the professional staff time that Kristi House has devoted to developing this initiative and the time anticipated for the training to successfully implement the program are being provided as an in-kind effort by Kristi House in an effort to proliferate program awareness. To minimize costs to Kristi House, the training of County, AA and RCCL staff is being accomplished using a train-the-trainer approach.

MDAD, Seaport and MDPD will continue to work diligently with their partners to expand the program's reach and to help raise awareness of this critically important issue.



Deputy Mayor