

Memorandum



Date: July 18, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Subject: Report to Examine the Feasibility of Developing a Smartphone Application to Allow Individuals to Report Suspected Human Trafficking Activity to Law Enforcement - Directive 220186

Executive Summary

The following information is provided in response to Resolution No. R-220-22, sponsored by Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to examine the feasibility of developing a smartphone application to allow individuals to report suspected human trafficking activity to law enforcement and to provide a report.

The Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) currently operates a smartphone application entitled Community on Patrol (COP application). This smartphone application is designed to facilitate the receipt of anonymous crime related tips from the community, including human trafficking concerns, and it is linked to CrimeStoppers305.com to ensure the accurate logging and assignment for any given tip received. It is a user-friendly smartphone application with drop-down menu guidance and the ability to upload media, such as pictures and video. MDPD recommends a marketing and promotional effort to inform the community of the benefits of using COP to fight against human trafficking.

Background

The MDPD's Organized Crimes Bureau, Human Trafficking Squad is responsible for investigating human trafficking cases via participation with the South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force. They currently receive tips from a variety of sources, including the following:

- 911
- National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-888)
- Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office Hotline (305-FIX-STOP or 305-349-7867)
- Florida Department of Children and Families Abuse Hotline (1-800-96-ABUSE or 1-800-962-2873)
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (1-800-THE-LOST or 1-800-843-5678)
- Miami-Dade & The Florida Keys Crime Stoppers (1-866 471-TIPS or 305 471-8477)

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- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations Tip Line (1-866-347-2423)
- Uniform officers responding to calls for service
- Victim Service Providers/Non-governmental Agencies
- MDPD COP Application

Recommendation

The most cost-effective and expeditious manner to allow individuals in Miami-Dade County to submit anonymous information to law enforcement regarding suspected human trafficking activity via smartphone application is already in operation. Human trafficking tips received by the COP application already result in an immediate response for investigation due to the nature of the crime, and COP is currently monitored 24 hours a day via Crime Stoppers. MDPD recommends a marketing and promotional effort to inform the community of the benefits of using COP to fight against human trafficking.

MDPD does not recommend the creation of a Smartphone application specifically for human trafficking tips. A new application would require 24-hour monitoring to provide the immediate response needed. Currently, no grant funding is available; therefore, a new application would result in a fiscal impact on the County.

Should you require additional information, please contact Deputy Director Stephanie V. Daniels, Miami-Dade Police Department, at 305-471-2100.

Per Ordinance 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald K. Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess M. McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Alfredo Ramirez, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Adeyinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board