TALKING POINTS

L.A. REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE
“OPERATION RECLAIM AND REBUILD, 2020”
NEWS CONFERENCE

10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020
HALL OF JUSTICE

NOTE:

• ONE REP FROM EACH AGENCY TO FILE IN BEHIND CAPTAIN HANNEMANN AT LECTERN
• CAPTAIN HANNEMANN BEGINS PRESS CONFERENCE
• CAPTAIN HANNEMANN INTRODUCES THE SHERIFF
• SHERIFF SPEAKS IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
• SHERIFF INTRODUCES CEO KAY BUCK, WHO SPEAKS
• SHERIFF FIELDS QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA
• GROUP PHOTO AND ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS

OPERATION RECLAIM AND REBUILD

(CAPTAIN HANNEMANN READS NAMES OF PRESENT HEADS OF AGENCIES THEN INTRODUCES THE SHERIFF)
SHERIFF VILLANUEVA:

• EACH JANUARY,
  o THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT,
  o THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND
  o THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE...

• ...COORDINATE WITH:
  o HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCES,
  o LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND
  o VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS STATEWIDE.

• OUR FOCUS IS TO RECLAIM OR RESCUE HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS AND CONNECT THEM WITH VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS.

• OUR GOAL IS TO HELP THEM TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES.

• LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FROM ACROSS THE STATE JOINED US TO SEND A MESSAGE TO
  o PIMPS,
  o EXPLOITERS, AND
  o BUYERS...

• ...THAT IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO BUY ANOTHER HUMAN BEING FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES.

• WORKING ALONGSIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT,
  o SOCIAL WORKERS,
  o VICTIM ADVOCATES, AND
  o VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS...

• ...ACTIVELY WORKED TO
  o REACH TRAFFICKING VICTIMS,
  o RESCUE THEM FROM THEIR CAPTORS, AND
  o PUT THEM ON A PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

• OUR 2020 OPERATION YIELDED SIGNIFICANT RESULTS:
○ **76** ADULTS WERE RESCUED,
○ **11** CHILDREN WERE RESCUED,
○ **27** SUSPECTED TRAFFICKERS AND EXPLOTERS WERE ARRESTED, AND
○ **266** “JOHNS” WERE ARRESTED.

- **IN TOTAL, 518 CRIMINAL ARRESTS WERE MADE DURING THE WEEK-LONG OPERATION.**

**STORIES:**
- **FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE, AGENCIES SHARED DRAMATIC STORIES OF…**
- **…VICTIM RESCUES AND EXPLOTER ARRESTS.**
- **I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ONE OF THE ENCOUNTERS, TO HIGHLIGHT…**
- **…THE INCREDIBLE WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN WHO FIGHT TRAFFICKING EVERY DAY:**

**CASE 1:**
- **THE SANTA CLARA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE CONDUCTED A RESCUE OPERATION AT A HOTEL IN SUNNYVALE…**
- **…DURING WHICH, DETECTIVES COMMUNICATED WITH A COMMERCIAL SEX WORKER AND ARRANGED A MEETING WITH HER.**
- **WHEN A MALE ADULT ARRIVED AND DROPPED OFF THE WOMAN FOR THE ARRANGED “DATE,” BOTH WERE DETAINED.**
- **THE WOMAN EXPLAINED THAT SHE WAS IN FEAR OF THE SUSPECT AND WANTED TO RETURN TO HER HOME IN OREGON.**
• Detectives learned there were two other women under the male’s control.

• They recovered the other women and learned all three had been trafficked in areas from...

• …Reno, Nevada, to the San Francisco Bay-area of California.

• Detectives also learned all three women were addicted to heroin.

• It appeared the male targeted them because of their addiction…

• …and he kept a large amount of “Narcan” on hand, in case of an overdose.

• The man, who had just been discharged off of parole for human trafficking…

• …was arrested on felony human trafficking and pimping charges.

• The three women, who were all adults, were connected with advocates.

• Two of the three accepted services.

**Human Trafficking Awareness Month:**

• Operation Reclaim and Rebuild was specifically timed for January, which is human trafficking awareness month.

• The message?
• TO THE TRAFFICKERS: DON’T DO BUSINESS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY OR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

• WE WILL FIND YOU AND PROSECUTE YOU TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.

• TO THE JOHNS: PURCHASING COMMERCIAL SEX IS ILLEGAL ADDS TO THE EXPLOITATION OF THOSE INVOLVED.

• TO THE VICTIMS: YOU ARE THE FOCUS OF THIS ENDEAVOR.

• WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

• THIS OPERATION IS TO HELP YOU RECLAIM YOUR FREEDOM FROM THE BINDS OF SEX TRAFFICKING…

• …AND TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT AND TOOLS TO REBUILD YOUR LIVES.

INTRODUCTION TO KAY BUCK:

• WE CLEARLY RECOGNIZE THAT, WITHOUT THE EXPERTISE AND COMMITMENT OF OUR DEDICATED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS…

• …THE VICTIMS IN THESE CASES WOULD FACE INSURMOUNTABLE CHALLENGES IN RECLAIMING AND REBUILDING THEIR LIVES.

• I’D LIKE TO INTRODUCE KAY BUCK, CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COALITION TO ABOLISH SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING, ALSO KNOWN AS C.A.S.T.

(WHEN KAY BUCK FINISHES, SHERIFF FIELDS MEDIA QUESTIONS)