

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCIL  
**FROM:** PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
**SUBJECT:** **HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING**  
**PURPOSE:** To provide information on human sex trafficking and seek Council approval to forward this report to the Burnaby-New Westminster Task Force on Sexually Exploited and At Risk Youth.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the information provided by the delegation in regards to Human Sex Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Child Sex Trafficking be referred to the Burnaby-New Westminster Task Force on Sexually Exploited and at Risk Youth;

**THAT** the Burnaby-New Westminster Task Force on Sexually Exploited and At Risk Youth undertake to write a letter to the Federal Justice Minister, Eric Farani, that the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA) needs to be enforced consistently through all of Canada along with a national roll out campaign; and

**THAT** copies of the letter be sent to the Provincial Government - Premier Eby, Solicitor General - Mike Farnsworth, and Attorney General - Nikki Sharma, to ensure funding is allocated to support the enforcement in the Province of BC.

## **1.0 POLICY SECTION**

The City is a founding member of the Burnaby-New Westminster Taskforce on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth which has been working since 1998 to address the sexual abuse of children and youth in the sex trade. This work, and associated efforts to protect the safety and dignity of all community members – including those who engage in sex work – is aligned with the following Council-adopted policies and plans/strategies: Corporate Strategic Plan (2017), Social Sustainability Strategy (2011), Equity Policy (1994, updated 2020), and the Healthy Community Policy (1991).

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

At the Public Safety Committee meeting on September 5, 2023, Cathy Peters appeared as a delegation and provided information on the Be Amazing Campaign – An Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative.

The speaker noted that human sex trafficking, child sex trafficking and sexual exploitation for the purpose of prostitution is the fastest growing crime in the world. Ms. Peters noted

that only 1-5% of individuals get out of the sex industry. The majority experience mental illness, drug addiction, die by suicide, or are murdered.

Ms. Peters stated that the law is not enforced in British Columbia and that Canada is a global sex trafficking destination, and that municipalities could help by reducing demand by targeting complicit businesses; and providing a school liaison officer program.

In conclusion, Ms. Peters requested that the Committee write a letter to the Federal Justice Minister, the Honourable Eric Farani, that the federal law needs to be enforced consistently through all of Canada along with a national roll out campaign and that a copy of the letter be sent to the Provincial Government, Premier Eby, Solicitor General Mike Farnsworth, and Attorney General Niki Sharma.

As a result of the information presented, the Committee recommended that the information be provided to the Burnaby-New Westminister Taskforce on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth, and that the Task Force be requested to undertake to write the letter, noting that the Task Force has representation from Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government.

**3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

The *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA) became law in 2014. There are four parts to the law:

- 1. Targets the demand by targeting the buyer of sex and profiteers;
- 2. Recognizes the seller of sex as a victim who is immune from prosecution;
- 3. Exit strategies are in place to assist the victim out of the sex trade; and
- 4. Robust preventive education programs are in place so that children are not pulled into the sex industry.

**4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable

**5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable

On behalf of the Public Safety Committee,

Councillor James Wang, Chair

Councilor Maita Santiago, Vice Chair

**REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

This report was prepared by Harlene Patara, Acting Administrative Officer 1 and reviewed by Kathryn Matts, Administrative Officer 2, and Blanka Zeinabova, Sr. Manager Legislative Services.