



Hurricane Harvey Case Study

Presented by:

Minal Patel Davis, Director

Mayor's Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence

City of Houston, Office of Mayor Sylvester Turner

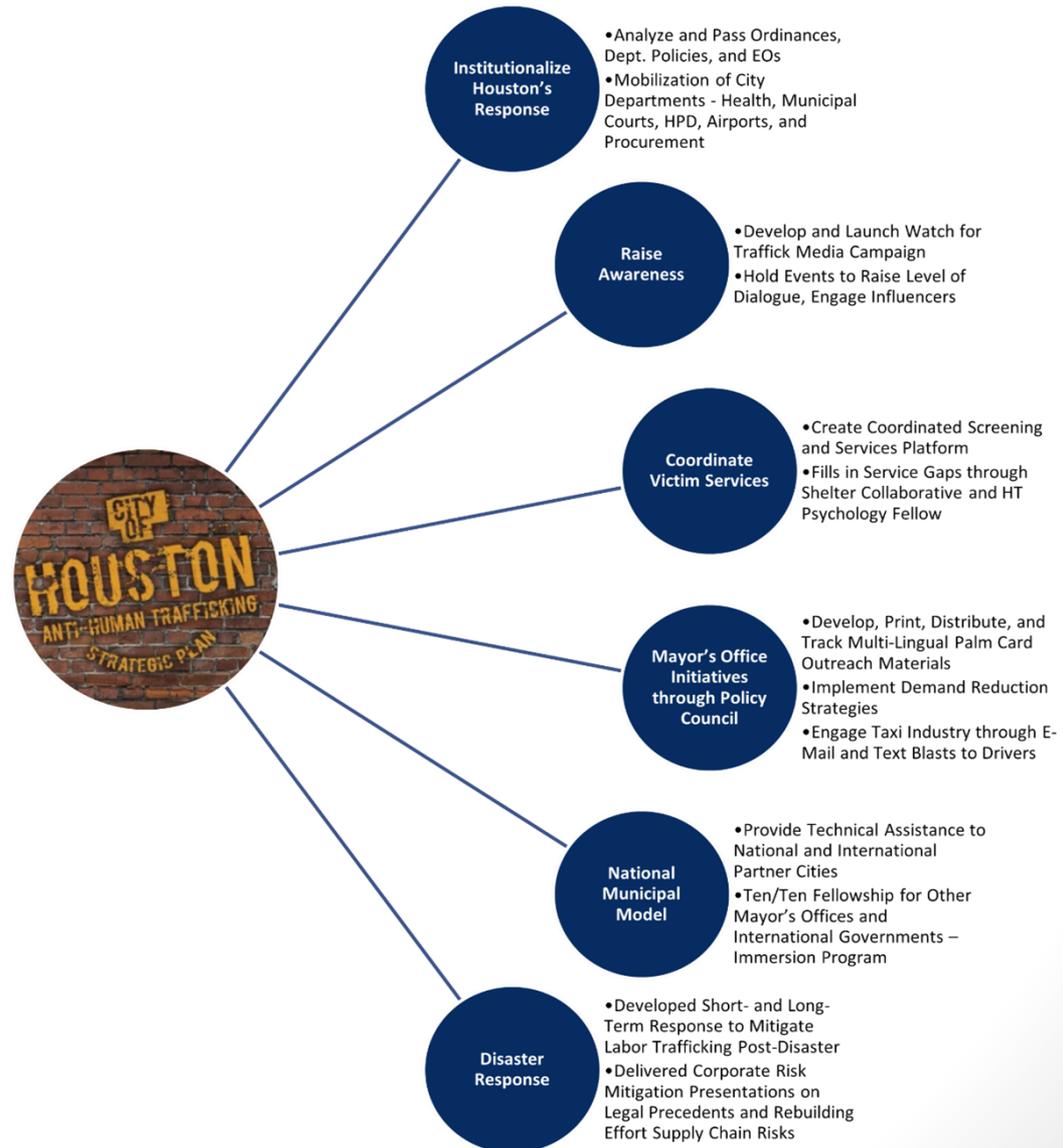
November 18, 2022, 12PM CST – 1:30 PM CST

City of Houston's Strategic Plan

A Brief Introduction to Plan Objectives

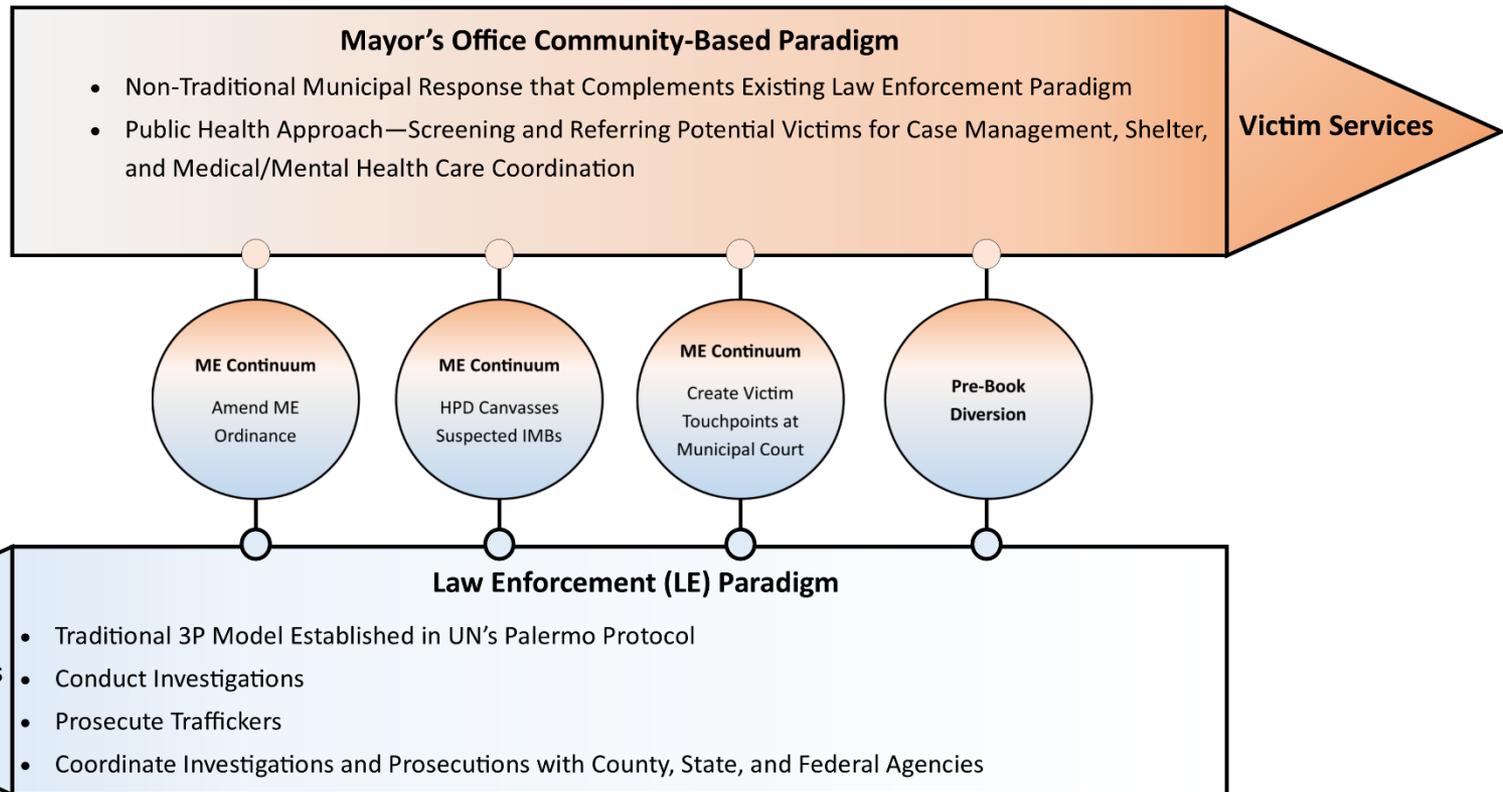
1st Comprehensive, Municipal-Level Strategic Plan in the United States

- **1st Objective:** Institutionalize the City of Houston's Response and Implement Trainings at Scale
- **2nd Objective:** Raise Awareness and Change Public Perception
- **3rd Objective:** Coordinate Victim Services and Engage in Direct Outreach
- **4th Objective:** Implement Joint Initiatives of the Mayor's Policy Council
- **5th Objective:** Establish Houston as the National Municipal Model for Anti-Trafficking Efforts
- Total of 5 objectives, 20 strategies, and 91 tactics.
- **Phase 2:** Released Aug. 2018, includes disaster response and replication via USCM, Ten/Ten.
- **100%** of Phase 1 and **84%** of Phase 2 completed in under 4 years. Phase 3 in effect.



City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Mayor's Office Coordinating Services



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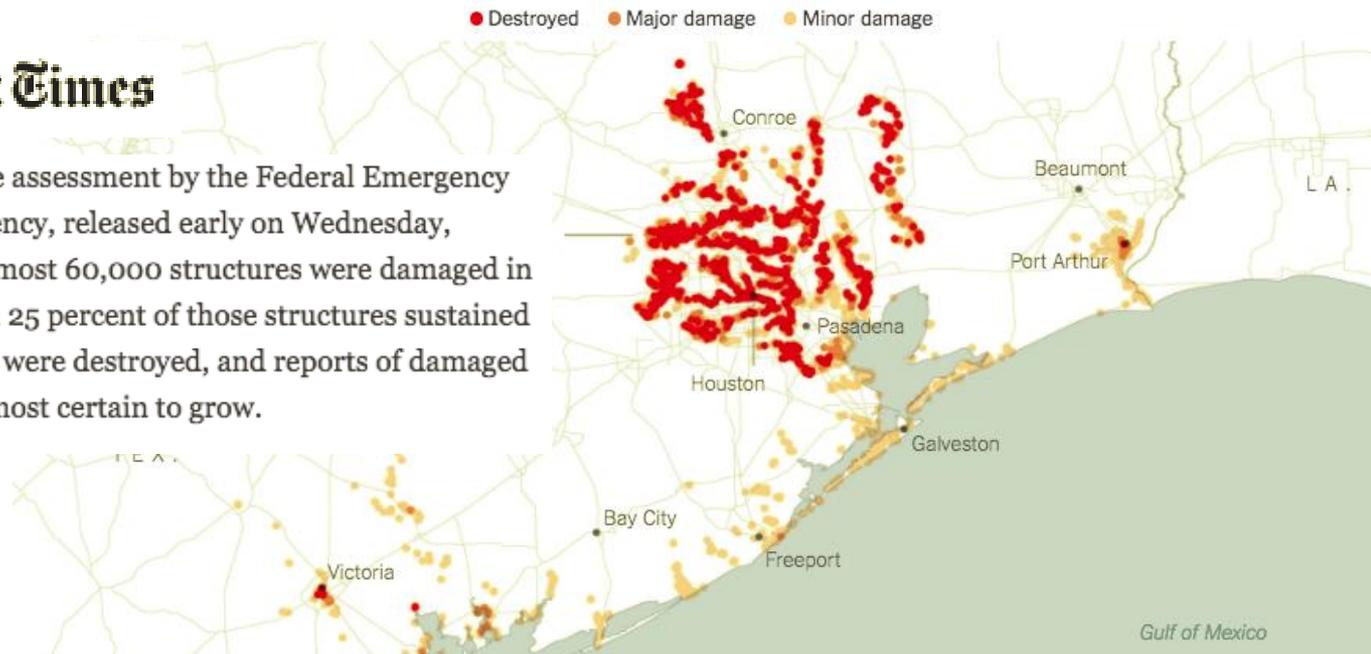
Harvey: A Costly Tragedy

FORTUNE

Texas Governor Greg Abbott estimated damage from Hurricane Harvey at \$150 billion to \$180 billion, calling it more costly than epic Hurricanes Katrina or Sandy, which devastated New Orleans in 2005 and New York City in 2012.

The New York Times

An initial damage assessment by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, released early on Wednesday, estimated that almost 60,000 structures were damaged in Texas. More than 25 percent of those structures sustained major damage or were destroyed, and reports of damaged structures are almost certain to grow.



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Post Disaster Human Trafficking Risks

- In 2005 Hurricane Katrina displaced hundreds of thousands of people in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, caused more than \$100 billion in damages, and triggered a massive redevelopment effort to rebuild homes, infrastructure and industries.
- Many cities, including New Orleans, faced a worker shortage to fill reconstruction and recovery related jobs. Some companies used force, fraud and deception to fill vacancies with coerced and trafficked labor.
- U.S. DHS lifted certain labor regulations for a period of time to expedite recovery.
- Given the economic opportunity, a scarcity of workers and the need to quickly begin reconstruction, Katrina exposed various risks to businesses utilizing contractors and recruiters to fulfill labor needs.
- Katrina exposed legal and ethical risks to businesses involved in reconstruction efforts, and human rights risks to the workers they employed.



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Short- and Long-Term Disaster Response

- **Harvey Background**

- Displaced persons may be more vulnerable to predators like human traffickers.
- Mayor's Office developed preventative short- and long-term responses.
- Used the International Office of Migration recommendations as guide.

- **Short-Term**

- Assessed shelter landscape to develop outreach and communication strategies, these may not be possible at another shelter.
- Educated residents at shelters on nexus between natural disasters and human trafficking through information in daily newsletters and on all hallway screens.
- Anti-trafficking team of staff and volunteers went cot-to-cot at shelters to place notes in English and Spanish and warn residents about recruitment tactics by traffickers in shelter settings and/or online.
- Information also warned about false job offers that may lead to labor trafficking.
- Let displaced persons know help is available if they find themselves in these situations.

Short Term

Long Term

Daily News Letter

Shelter Monitors

Cot to Cot

Billboards

EO 1-56

DDS Visa Check

Consular Outreach

OTIP Print and Translate Cot Notes

Vulnerability Mapping

Social Media

Corporate Outreach

10/25/18 Corporate Event

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Associated Image: Excerpt from Shelter Newsletter for Evacuees

Where to Find It In the GRB

Meals - Back of Hall E

Showers - Hall A

Medical Treatment - Front of Hall E

Donation Distribution Store - Hall E

FEMA - In front of Hall C

Kid's Area - In front of Hall A

Free Transportation Information - Hall E

Dental Services - Hall E

Post Office - Box Office A

Phone Charging Areas - In front of Hall C

Red Cross Health and Mental Health Tables - Halls B - D

Sleeping Areas - Halls A - D

Meal Times:

Breakfast: 8 a.m.

Lunch: 12 p.m.

Dinner: 6 p.m.

Curfew Times:

A mandatory curfew will be enforced from 12 - 5 a.m. daily.

Lights Out: Lights out is at 10 p.m. every night.

Support for Foreign Nationals

The Mayor's Office has set up a table in Hall D (near McAlister's) for foreign nationals seeking to connect with government representatives of the country in which they hold citizenship. You can meet your Consular representatives and also find out how to contact consulates to connect to vital services.

Human Trafficking

Displaced people may become more vulnerable to human trafficking, both labor trafficking and/or sex trafficking. Traffickers can use a person's vulnerabilities by meeting their basic needs, luring them into a relationship and then forcing them into selling sex. If you're looking for work, make sure you only accept jobs from people you trust, and make sure you are paid and are in control of your identification.

To report human trafficking, call 1 (888) 373-7888.

Human Trafficking

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Associated Image: Shelter Monitor Slide

Human Trafficking Awareness

Why is it important to learn about it now?

- **Natural disasters can make people more vulnerable to human trafficking**
 - Trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion (FFC) to compel a commercial sex or labor act. FFC not required if the person is 17 and under for a commercial sex act.
 - Traffickers may first try and meet their victim's basic needs, form a relationship and then make them sell sex.
 - People seeking work are also more vulnerable to labor trafficking after a natural disaster, particularly in the construction industry.
 - Try and take jobs from trusted referrals and be ware of leery job offers.
 - Make sure you get the government assistance you need so that you are not vulnerable to traffickers.
 - There is research that shows that after natural disasters, both sex and labor trafficking are on the rise.

Call the National Trafficking Tip Hotline at 888-373-7888 with a tip or with questions! Please note, trafficking is different than smuggling.



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Associated Image: Disaster Response Cot Note

1st Version: English, French, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Thai

2nd Version: English, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, and Hindi



Call One of these Helplines for Assistance

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

24 Hr Confidential Helpline

Help is available in 200 languages

or text HELP to BeFree (233733)

3 pm to 11 pm

Faith and Justice Worker Center • 713-862-8222

Help with workers' rights, workplace issues

Texas Workforce Commission • 1-800-252-3642

Report worker fraud and abuse

The Landing • 713-766-1111

Services for those previously or currently in the sex industry

Rescue Houston • 713-322-8000 • 24/7 Hotline

Immediate response and rescue for those exiting the sex industry

These cards are survivor-informed

Disaster Response

English

Displaced Persons May be More Vulnerable to Human Trafficking

People in need of resources or jobs can be exploited. Trafficking is not always what you see on TV or the movies. People are often recruited, groomed, tricked and manipulated. Both men and women can be traffickers and trafficking victims. Here are scenarios to be aware of now and in the future:

- False construction/rebuild jobs being advertised on social media or flyers over the next few months.
- Offers of work that come with housing, rental deductions, immigration assistance and/or transportation to and from work and turn into no pay and guarded living quarters.

In shelter and post shelter settings, be careful about:

- A man approaches and says "I heard you say that you need some money. I know a way that you can make some quick cash."
- A young woman you just met says: "If you don't want to stay here, my boyfriend will take care of you. You can come stay with us."

Traffickers want to take advantage of your need for work and resources. Once they provide resources, they will expect you to "pay". Payment can come in the form of forced labor, prostitution, stripping and pornography.

Disaster Response

English

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Associated Image: Original English Cot Note

Displaced persons may be more vulnerable to predators like human traffickers. People in need of resources or jobs can be exploited. Trafficking is not always what you see on TV or the movies. People are often groomed, tricked and manipulated. Both men and women can be traffickers and trafficking victims. Here are some scenarios that should prompt you to be cautious now and in the future:

-A man approaches and says "I heard you say that you need some money. I know a way that you can make some quick cash."

-A young woman you just met says: "If you don't want to stay here, my boyfriend will take care of you. You can come stay with us."

Traffickers want to take advantage of your need for resources. Once they provide resources, they will expect you to "pay". Payment can come in the form of prostitution, stripping and pornography. It can happen to anyone but please be more cautious if you are ages 12-24.

Also be cautious about:

-Construction/rebuild jobs being advertised on social media or flyers over the next few months.

-Offers of work that come with housing, rental deductions, immigration assistance and/or transportation to and from work.

To report human trafficking please call the national trafficking tip hotline 888-373-7888. You can also call The Landing for services 713-766-1111.



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Associated Image: Original Spanish Cot Note

Las personas desplazadas pueden ser más vulnerables a los depredadores como los traficantes de seres humanos. Las personas que necesitan recursos o empleos pueden ser explotadas. El tráfico no siempre es lo que se ve en la televisión o en las películas. A menudo las personas son arregladas, engañadas y manipuladas. Tanto los hombres como las mujeres pueden ser traficantes y víctimas de la trata. Aquí hay algunos ejemplos en los que deberían pedirle que sea cauteloso ahora y en el futuro:

-Un hombre se acerca y dice: "Te oí decir que necesitas algo de dinero. Conozco una manera de hacer dinero rápido.

-Una joven que acabas de conocer dice: "Si no quieres quedarte aquí, mi novio te cuidará. Puedes venir a quedarte con nosotros.

Los traficantes quieren aprovechar su necesidad de recursos. Una vez que proporcionan recursos, esperan que usted "pague". El pago puede venir en la forma de la prostitución, del stripping y de la pornografía. Puede suceder a cualquier persona pero por favor sea más cauteloso si usted tiene la edad de 12-24 años, puede ser más vulnerable.

Sea también cauteloso sobre:

-Construcción / reconstrucción de puestos de trabajo que se anuncian en los medios de comunicación social o volantes en los próximos meses.

-Ofertas de trabajo que vienen con vivienda, deducciones de alquiler, asistencia de inmigración y / o transporte hacia y desde el trabajo.

Para reportar tráfico de personas por favor llame a la línea telefónica nacional 888-373-7888. También puede llamar a The Landing para obtener los servicios 713-766-1111.



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Short- and Long-Term Disaster Response

- **Long-Term**

- Redesigned the Watch for Traffick media campaign to indicate the nexus between natural disasters and a rise in trafficking, costs reimbursed by OTIP.
- Finalized Executive Order to ensure City engages in safe labor contracting practices.
- The DOS is on alert about visa fraud and potential investigations related to Harvey.
- Proactively sent City's list of contractors and subcontractors to DOS.
- Creating a forum to share information on H2B visa applicants with relevant consular offices so they can share with their citizens.
- Received significant grant from private law firm to boost capacity of partner organizations engaged in direct outreach with vulnerable populations.
- Translated cot note into multiple languages for outreach, costs reimbursed by OTIP.

Short Term

Long Term

Daily News Letter

Shelter Monitors

Cot to Cot

Billboards

EO 1-56

DOS Visa Check

Consular Outreach

OTIP Print and Translate Cot Notes

Vulnerability Mapping

Social Media

Corporate Outreach

10/29/18 Corporate Event

City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Associated Image: Labor and Sex Trafficking Billboards

A billboard featuring a white silhouette of a construction worker carrying a beam on their shoulder, set against a blue background. The billboard is mounted on a metal pole. The background of the billboard is a blurred image of a construction site.

AS THE WATER RECEDES,
LABOR TRAFFICKING MAY RISE.

888.373.7888
WatchForTraffick.org

A billboard featuring a white silhouette of a woman and a smaller figure of a child, set against a blue background. The billboard is mounted on a metal pole. The background of the billboard is a blurred image of a construction site.

AS THE WATER RECEDES,
SEX TRAFFICKING MAY RISE.

888.373.7888
WatchForTraffick.org

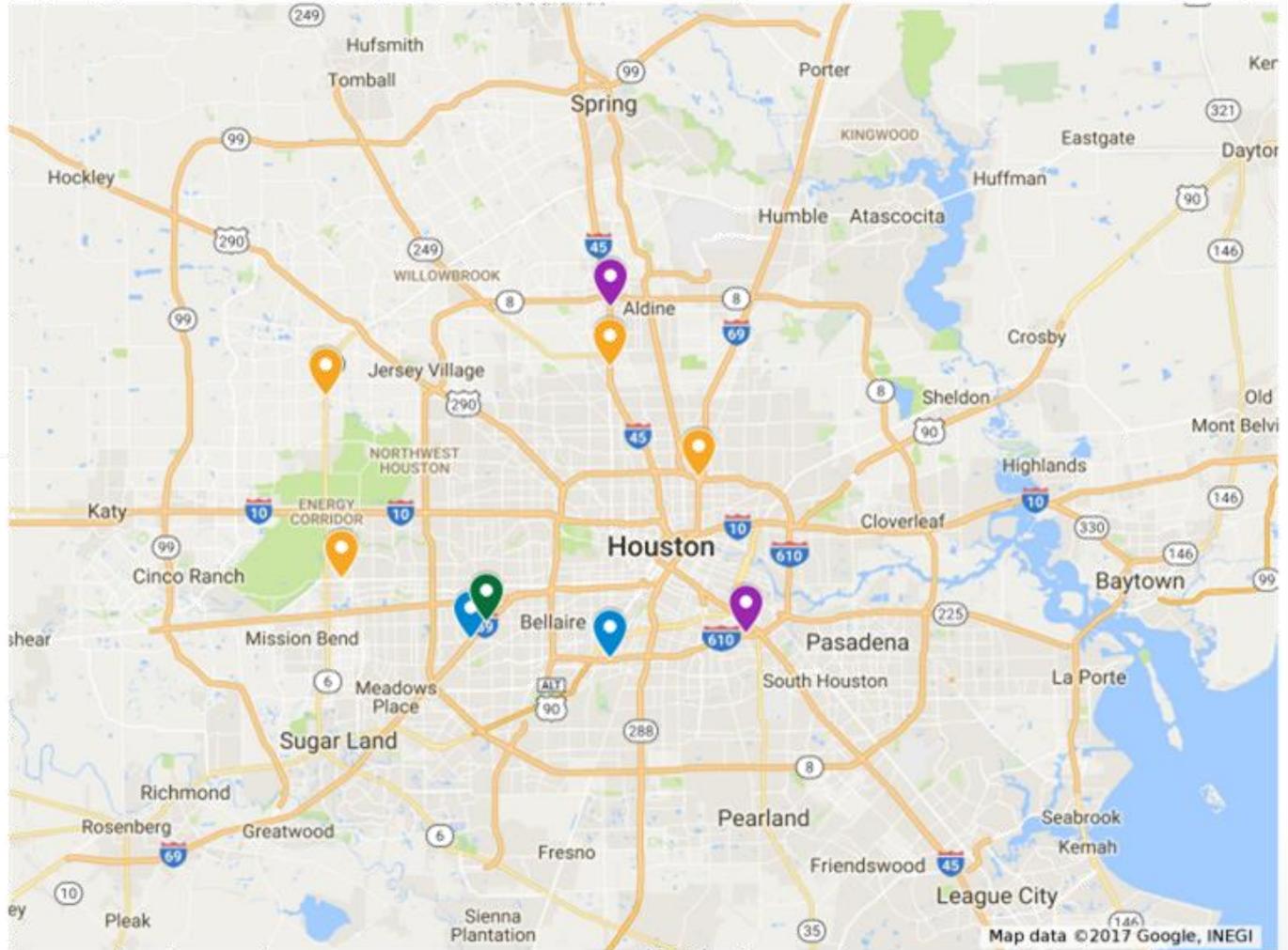


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Associated Image: Placement of Billboards

Untitled layer

- 📍 Labor Trafficking - Spanish
- 📍 Labor Trafficking - Spanish
- 📍 Sex Trafficking - Spanish
- 📍 Sex Trafficking - Spanish
- 📍 Labor Trafficking - English
- 📍 Sex Trafficking - English



City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Executive Order by Mayor Turner

- EO makes counter-human trafficking a priority issue in City purchasing decisions.
- Leads by example by ensuring that City does not do business with dubious contractors.
- Raises awareness of human trafficking and boosts corporate action.
- Encourages contractors to proactively follow ethical employee labor and recruitment practices.
- Declares that the City will use its purchasing power to conduct business with enterprises that are taking positive steps to root out human trafficking from their supply chains.
- Part of every City contract after implementation date of 11/19/2017.
- Initially part of contract for \$250 million municipal bond deal for airport expansion.
- Allows for waivers in case companies we work with do not understand how to comply.
- Gained national attention and coverage in Bloomberg Law's White Collar Crime Report stating that Houston was on the "Compliance Vanguard."
- Encouraging corporations to follow our example and take steps to address their supply chains and impact labor trafficking in their sphere of influence.



EXECUTIVE ORDER

**ZERO TOLERANCE FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CITY
SERVICE CONTRACTS AND PURCHASING**

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Associated Image: Title Page of Bloomberg Law Article on EO



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FORCED LABOR

Two experts on supply chain compliance discuss the recent order from Houston's mayor to rid the city's supply chains for goods and services of human trafficking and other forms of forced and coerced labor. The authors provide an overview of the order, a recent executive order from former President Obama, and list several anti-trafficking program best practices.

Houston at the Compliance Vanguard: 'Zero Tolerance' For Human Trafficking in City-Purchased Goods and Services



BY T. MARKUS FUNK AND THE HONORABLE VIRGINIA M. KENDALL

Houston, the "Magnolia City," has squarely perched itself on the compliance world's cutting edge. It, as a city, has taken a significant, innovative step to rid its many supply chains for goods and services of human trafficking and other forms of forced and coerced labor. And the impact of this proactive decision—particularly if emulated by others—is certain to be felt well beyond the city limits.

Fighting Trafficking Through an Executive Order—the Context

In the midst of recovering from one of the worst natural disasters in recent history, on Oct. 19, 2017, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (D), with immediate effect, signed his landmark "Zero Tolerance for Human Trafficking in City Service Contracts and Purchasing" Ex-

ecutive Order (EO 1-56). Houston's "zero tolerance" approach in many ways mirrors President Barack Obama's landmark 2012 Executive Order to Strengthen Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts (Executive Order 13627; the final rule amends Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 22.17 and Contract 52.222-50).

Mayor Turner's Executive Order puts America's fourth-largest city in the compliance vanguard. It in many ways embodies the next evolutionary step in the global fight against trafficking: First, there were criminal laws (most notably the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended). Next came along supply chain transparency/disclosure enactments (like the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act and the UK Modern Slavery Act) and the vastly expanded anti-trafficking provisions for federal government contractors. Finally, observers introduced supplemental model laws and guidelines, including Uniform Act for the Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking, the ABA Model Business and Supplier Policies on Labor Trafficking and Child Labor, and the proposed Corporate Transparency Act.

The timing of Mayor Turner's Order has the dual effect of showing that the mayor of a large municipality understands that, beyond the inherent ethical problems with purchasing tainted products from overseas, his residents right at home are at risk of exploitation due to the increase in need for goods and services necessary to rebuild after the flooding. While the Order was contemplated prior to Hurricane Harvey's devastation, it certainly sends a shot across the bow to those who might consider exploiting Houston residents in their time of

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Short- and Long-Term Disaster Response

- **Long-Term**

- Provided outreach organizations with vulnerability map that highlights priority outreach areas, based on cross of structural damage map with 4 demographic maps indicative of at-risk indicators – no HS diploma, median income, female-led households, unemployment.
- Also provided lists of schools, churches and apartment complexes within each target area.
- Coordinated Harvey social media campaign to raise awareness of post-disaster vulnerabilities, another resource for outreach groups to complement efforts.
- Developing a long-term effort to educate businesses on the Signal case and encourage oversight for their contracts.
- Case involved Indian guest workers who were trafficked for their labor after Hurricane Katrina through abuse of the H2B visa program.
- Held an event October 2018 to engage local, national corporate community by framing trafficking as risk mitigation and compliance issue, focus on supply chains.

Short Term

Long Term

Daily News Letter

Shelter Monitors

Cot to Cot

Billboards

EO 1-56

DOS Visa Check

Consular Outreach

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Vulnerability Mapping

Social Media

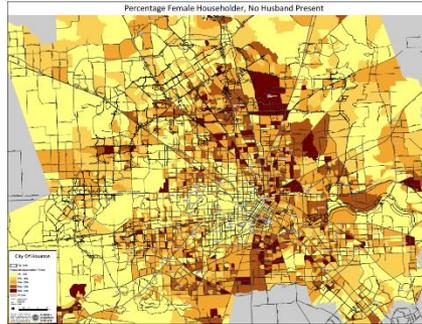
Corporate Outreach

10/29/18 Corporate Event

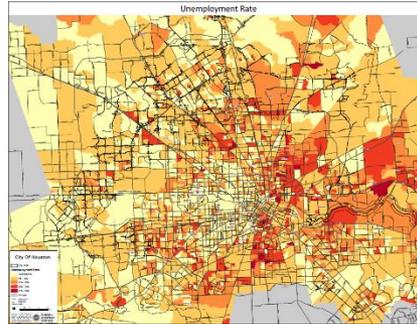
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Associated Image: Demographic Maps Crossed to Identify Vulnerable Areas

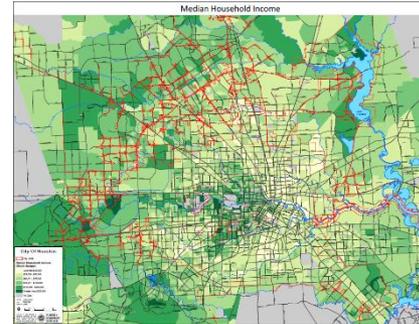
Female-Led Households



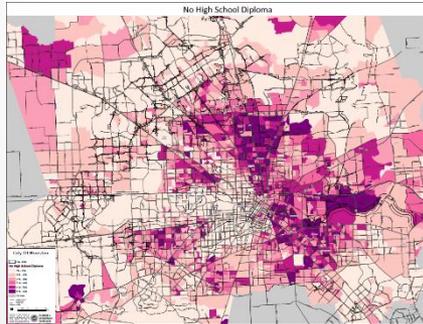
Unemployment Rate



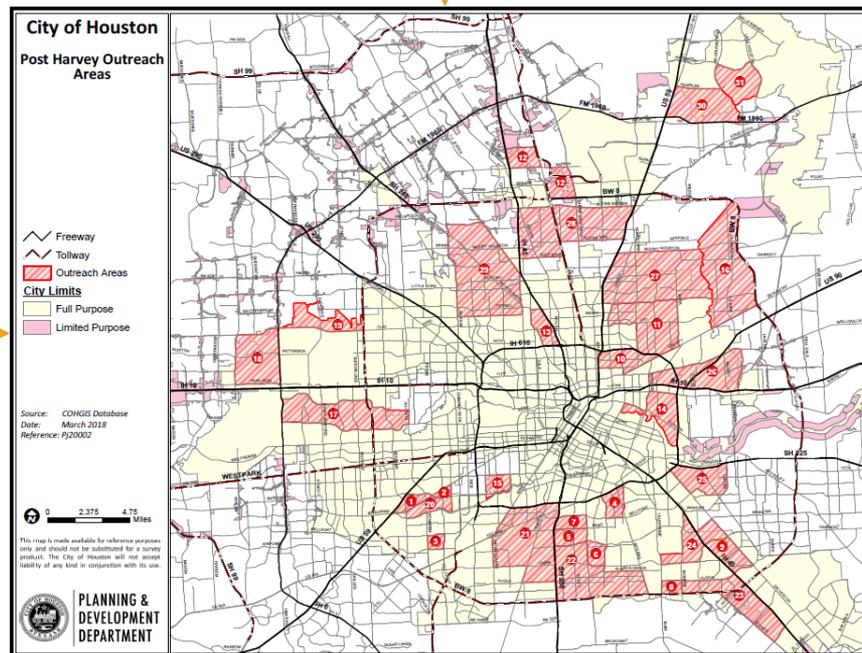
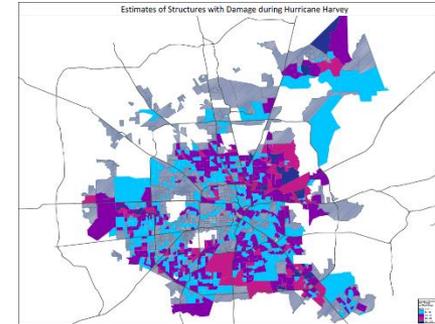
Median Household Income



No HS Diploma

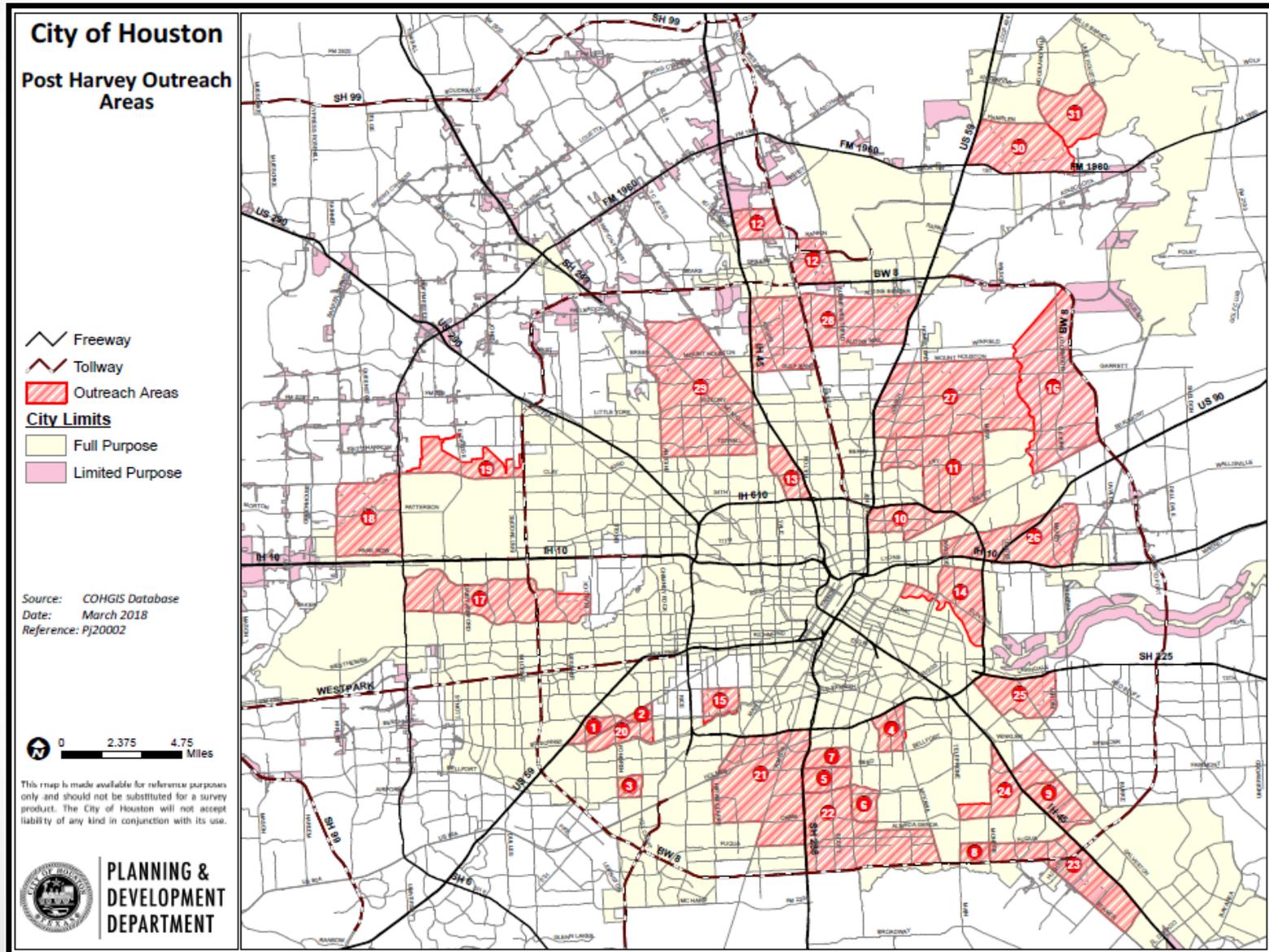


Structural Damage



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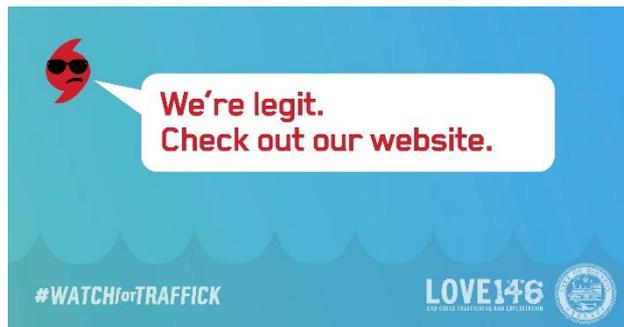
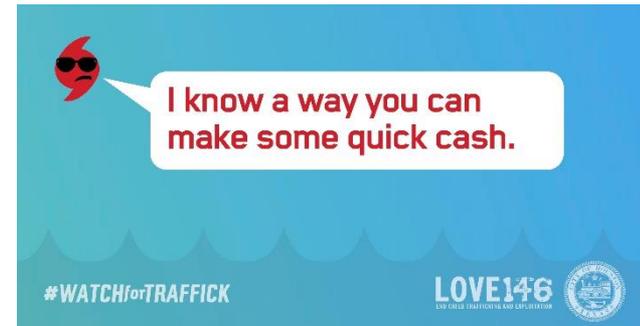
Associated Image: Vulnerability Map for Preventative Outreach



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Harvey Social Media Campaign

- Complemented direct outreach efforts with Harvey social media campaign.
- 4 images, posted on FB, Twitter, Instagram with link to educational material on website.
- Posts highlighted post-disaster vulnerabilities, how potential traffickers may prey on individuals.
- Provided contact info. of local organizations serving potential sex and labor trafficking victims.
- Partners provided with campaign materials beforehand, coordinated post dates.
- Ran July to August 2018, 1x weekly posts.
- Campaign and partner guide, messaging document, posts available in ED toolkit.



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Summary of Corporate Risk Mitigation Presentation

- Engaged corporate community around labor trafficking, necessary even if no post-disaster context.
- Presentation outlines post-disaster risks, push and pull factors.
- Draws on 4 case studies from post-Katrina Louisiana that impacted construction, oil and gas, hospitality, and education sectors.
- Advances intervention and prevention recommendations.
- Frames trafficking in language relevant to businesses, traditional non-profit approach of speaking to businesses using victim narratives misses opportunity for dialogue.
- Presented for oil and gas CSR roundtable and to banking and compliance specialists.
- Full presentation is approximately 40 minutes long, selected slides from presentation below.

Post-Disaster Risks Push and Pull Factors

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Post Disaster: Pull Factors

- Natural disasters and hurricanes lead to massive spending by the federal and local governments for cleanup and reconstruction.
- Assistance needs to be dispersed quickly, often bypassing government contracting regulations and traditional worker protections.
- A shortage of labor collides with opportunities and contracts for rebuilding and construction.
- Economists fear the otherwise tight U.S. labor market could hold back reconstruction, compared to previous disasters.

"There is not a significant surplus of labor ready to re-enter the workforce to take relatively higher paying construction jobs that will be available in Houston and across much of Florida".

— Joe Brusuelas, McGladrey LLP, tax & consulting service company

USB - U.S. CHAMBER COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION INDEX | Q3 2017

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4 Post-Katrina Case Studies

City of Houston's Strategic Plan
Katrina Labor Case 4: Construction Industry

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

2015: Signal Worker Case

- In 2015 a jury awarded \$14 million in damages to Indian workers exploited by Signal and its associates, utilized the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).
- Workers were already in the U.S. on H2A and H2B visas.
- Recruiters charged workers \$10,000 - \$20,000 in fees.
- Signal retaliated against those who spoke out against bad working conditions.
- ACLU: "This historic verdict puts American companies on notice that if they exploit the flaws in our temporary worker program, they will be held accountable and punished."

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Intervention & Prevention Recommendations

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Intervention & Prevention: Recommendation 1

- **Cement In-House Capability:**
 - **Conduct due diligence** and vetting of all labor contractors in the supply chain, with higher level scrutiny of employee recruitment practices
 - Train procurement and supplier management personnel on working with contractors to ensure **ethical recruitment** practices

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Mayor's Office 2018 Event

- 2018 event engaged corporate leaders on trafficking as risk mitigation and compliance issue.
- Goal of framing trafficking as an issue that tangibly affects business' bottom line.
- Discussion of corporate response strategies, conscientious supply chain management, responsible sourcing, ethical recruitment.
- Speakers from DOS, social auditing firm, capacity-building NGO, hotel industry, and funder.

**Conscientious Capitalism:
Labor Trafficking and Supply Chains
Mitigating Risk**

Hosted by the City of Houston, Mayor's Office

Keynote Speaker: **Mayor Sylvester Turner**
Opening Remarks: **Minal Patel Davis**

Panelists and Speakers

Amy O'Neill Richard
Senior Advisor,
Department of State

Dr. Shawn MacDonald
CEO,
Veritas

Amol Mehra, Esq.
Managing Director,
Freedom Fund

Tu Rinsche
Director, Social Impact and
Global Responsibility
Marriott

Kyle Wright
CEO
StardustFund

Aby Raju - Welding Inspector and Former Signal Case Worker

Program

Registration 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm Main Entrance	Opening Remarks and Keynote 5:30 pm to 5:45 pm Zilkha Hall	Panel Discussion and Closing Remarks 5:45 pm to 7:15 pm Zilkha Hall
		Reception 7:15 pm to 8:00 pm Grand Lobby

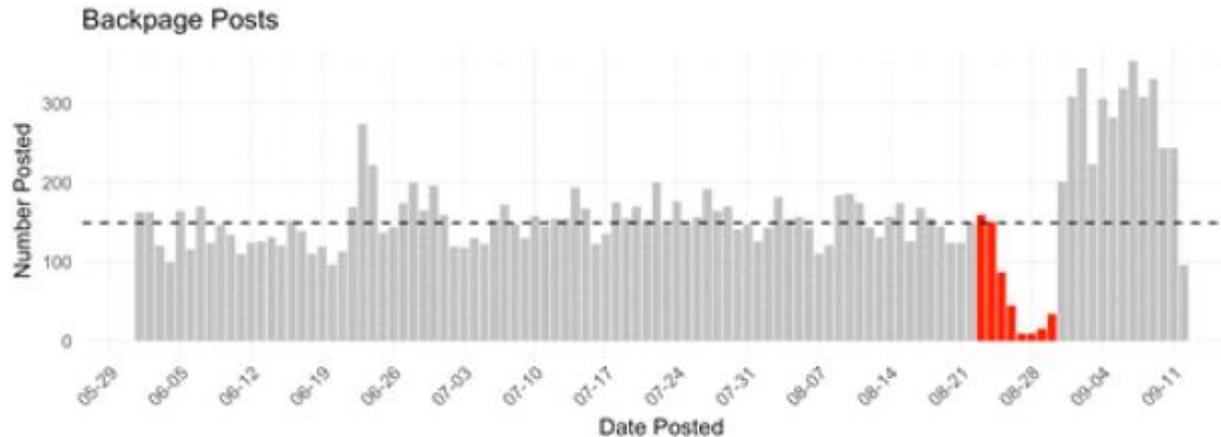
Sponsors

The Hobby Center • Monday, October 29, 2018 • 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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Grant Funds to Increase Outreach Capacity

- Private law firm gave substantial grant to City, we regranting to increase post-disaster outreach and corporate and consular education and event.
- City granted funds to 6 Houston non-profits through our Health Foundation.
- Largest grant went to Fe y Justicia, a worker center to screen labor violation calls for trafficking and to increase their outreach efforts to include trafficking awareness.
- Funds to increase outreach in high prostitution areas also granted.
- Additional grants increased outreach to those in online sex ads and to decrease demand.



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Distilled Response, Legal Research into Protocol Book

- Private law firm assisted in codifying response into protocol manual.
- States procedures for short- and long-term response.
- Makes recommendations based on our experience.
- Includes appendices of visuals/materials used.
- Discusses 4 detailed case studies of labor trafficking post-Katrina in construction, oil and gas, hospitality, education.



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City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Lessons Learned



- **Prepare outreach materials prior to the disaster**
 - Natural disasters often result in power outages, building damage.
 - This complicates preparation of outreach materials.
 - Harvey left City Hall inaccessible, had limited access to technology, printers, etc.
 - Materials critical for preventative education and outreach to evacuees.
 - Prepare in advance and maintain in paper and electronic form.
 - Translation standards may not be upheld.
 - Need to institutionalize response within Houston Health Department.



- **Coordinate with City and County shelter command centers**
 - Access to shelter evacuees is first priority.
 - Have to consider outreach timing to avoid those that will self resolve.
 - Displaced populations vulnerable to trafficking, traffickers may recruit in shelters.
 - Coordinating with shelter command centers allows for access to evacuees, can assist you with effective resource distribution.
 - Lots of community confusion around access and volunteer requirements.
 - Overtime, dorm access was restricted.



City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Lessons Learned



- **Assess shelters for mass communication opportunities and promptly distribute information to evacuees**
 - Each shelter operates differently, even if common disaster.
 - Assess shelters individually to pinpoint mass communication opportunities.
 - Distribute at congregation points; areas where services offered by FEMA, service provider tables, check-in areas, cafeteria, dorm or hall monitors.
 - May have communication restrictions, only allowed 1 ppt slide, played with other vital information.



- **Engage volunteers and secure access to evacuees for cot-to-cot outreach**
 - Cot-to-cot outreach vital to mitigating trafficking, survivor input.
 - May need to recruit volunteers if engaging several thousands of evacuees with outreach.
 - Confirm beforehand volunteer registration requirements, ensure their access to dormitories.
 - Tell volunteers where to park, restroom and cafeteria locations, agree to central meetup point.
 - Inform them of shelter rules, need for official ID, rules on firearms and weapons.



City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Lessons Learned



- **Engage volunteers and secure access to evacuees for cot-to-cot outreach**
 - Conduct brief orientation to familiarize them with shelter landscape, their responsibilities.
 - Consider engaging volunteers via volunteer coordinators with anti-trafficking non-profits, ensures knowledgeable individuals and effective messaging. Bilingual/multilingual a must.
 - Instruct them to place cot notes on unoccupied cots, use discretion when children present.
 - Anticipate needs of those positively identified – access to non-disaster shelters, services, Red Cross, FEMA.
 - Mayor's Office had pre-existing shelter relationships, locations were operational and accepting clients, moved trafficking victims to shelter.
 - Outreach materials must be multi-lingual, with national hotline number, number of local anti-trafficking organizations, if applicable.
 - Multiple numbers should be listed if unclear which organizations impacted by disaster.
 - Coalition on Homeless previously trained, have social workers on call if they need a phone intake done.



City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Lessons Learned



- **Educate corporate community**

- Cities should take lead on educating corporate citizens on labor trafficking and mitigating post disaster risk.
- Promote ethical practices in vetting of recruiters to protect against liability caused by misconduct.
- Support oversight of contracts, encourage businesses to know if recruiters are charging fees, if foreign workers are misled about hours or visa status.
- Encourage due diligence on laws over working, living conditions to ensure fair worker treatment.
- Lead by example, risk mitigation lens a must.



City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Lessons Learned



- **Engage consular offices**

- They offer a direct line to non-citizens, helpful in combatting trafficking post-disaster.
- Regional DOS office requested that DOS send out a worldwide bulletin.
- DOS is proactively checking on the City's contractors.
- DOS is proactively checking visa applications for compliance and established alerts for applications with references to Harvey or the rebuild efforts.
- DOL provides statistics on home countries visa laborers, can be used in identifying countries with vulnerable citizens and languages needed for outreach cards.
- Cities should engage consulates through presentations similar to the corporate presentations and event.



City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Emergency Disaster Response Toolkit

- Available resources and implementation

- Visit

<http://humantraffickinghouston.org/toolkits/emergency-disaster-response-toolkit/>.

- All materials referenced available for download, your adaptation, and use.

- Contents:

- PPT slide for shelter display
- Shelter newsletter excerpt
- Cot notes, 2 versions
- Social media posts (JPEG and editable), campaign guide, and planning materials
- Signs for taxis, 2 billboard sizes
- Post-Katrina labor trafficking case studies
- Fact sheets and presentations for corporate and consular outreach

Toolkits

Emergency Disaster Response Toolkit

The Issue

Our Approach

NGFA

Toolkits

- Domestic Violence Social Vulnerability Dashboard
- Emergency Disaster Response Toolkit
- Social Media Toolkit
- Message Establishment Ordinance
- Super Bowl Information Packet
- Mayor's Policy Council Toolkit
- Watch for Traffick Media Campaign
- Municipal Jail Signs Toolkit
- Palm-Sized Cards for Direct Outreach
- Taxi Industry Initiative Toolkit

Resources

Newsroom

SEARCH

There is a nexus between natural disasters and increases in both labor and sex trafficking of displaced people and relief workers. The Mayor's Office is proactively taking steps to mitigate the potential impact disasters have on human trafficking by developing a short- and long-term disaster response that can serve as a model for future disasters. Our response includes preventative direct outreach in disaster shelters and consular and corporate engagement long after the disaster. The materials included in the Toolkit were used by the Houston Mayor's Office during Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Tweets from @MYRAgainstHTDV

Office of Human ... @H... - Oct 29, 2021

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is coming to an end, but our commitment to #JoinTheChorus and raise awareness about domestic violence remains strong year-round: #DVAM2021 #WeAreResilient #EndViolence @houmayor

2 1

Office of Human ... @H... - Oct 28, 2021

Your voice matters. #JoinTheChorus and speak out against domestic and sexual violence and help empower survivors. Help is available call the DV Hotline at 800-799-7233 or chat at thehotline.org. #DVAM2021 #WeAreResilient #EndViolence @houmayor

About

This Toolkit includes research on post-Katrina labor trafficking cases, multi-lingual materials for direct outreach with displaced and vulnerable populations, customized messages to post on social media covering labor and sex trafficking, and Watch for Traffick signs for billboards and taxis that draw attention to the link between natural disasters and human trafficking.

Download the Toolkit

What's Included

- What is Human Trafficking? PowerPoint Slide to Display in Shelter Settings (PDF and PPT)
- Excerpt from Shelter Newsletter on Vulnerability of Displaced People (PDF)
- "Cot Notes" - Emergency Disaster Response Palm Cards (PDF and InDesign) - 1st version: English, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, and Hindi.

City of Houston's Strategic Plan

Self-Activation of Office to Develop, Implement Trafficking Response

- Anti-trafficking office self-activated during City of Houston's Harvey response, not yet institutionalized alongside traditional responders.
- Carved out desk space at shelter command center to implement short term disaster response.
- Requested that we provide briefing information to shelter command center staffers.
- Tried to work alongside traditional responders, Houston Health Department, Coalition for the Homeless to integrate trafficking response in existing system.
- Had some resistance from established responders because of original cot note format, also lack of understanding and concern for trafficking as a legitimate post-disaster issue.
- First occasion that Special Advisor acted without first informing Mayor Turner, knew he would approve of approach and needed to act quickly.



City of Houston's Strategic Plan

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