



SECOND NOTIFICATION

February 18, 2020

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A Message from the President/CEO of the Tampa Housing Authority Regarding Human Trafficking

Due to the Tampa Bay area being considered a hot bed for Human Trafficking, we felt compelled to provide you with as much information and statistics as possible regarding human trafficking so that you will not hesitate to report incidences. A nationwide human trafficking report calls Tampa a major hub for \$2.5 billion profit, making Florida the 3rd highest ranked state in the nation for this fast-growing crime. Florida has also been identified as one of the highest incidences of Human Trafficking activity in the country. Because the Tampa Housing Authority cares about its residents and their children, we would like to bring awareness to the problem by educating, advocating, and collaborating with partnering organizations to ensure that the message is clear regarding this horrific problem.

There are between 100,000-300,000 human trafficking victims under 18 in the United States per year.

- The average age of entry into the exploitation industry is 12 years old and as young as 9 years old.
- Total yearly profits generated by Human Trafficking are \$32 billion.
- Trafficking for exploitation generates \$28 billion per year.
- In Florida alone, during 2018, there were **896** calls reporting possible human trafficking and **367** actual Human Trafficking cases reported.
- According to the US State Department, **600,000 to 800,000** people are trafficked across international borders every year, of which **80%** are female and half are children.
- Many runaways head to Florida and are living on the streets; they become prime targets for traffickers who are very good at building relationships and the trust of these kids and before they know it, they become trapped in a situation they cannot escape.
- There is an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 runaways living on the streets in Florida; they are contacted by a trafficker within 48 hours of being on the street and are lured with the promise of shelter or simply grabbed.

The information and statistical data referenced above is from the National Human Trafficking Website. The Tampa Housing Authority encourages you to report any incidences to the THA hotline at (813) 341-9201 ext. 2900. We will do our best to incorporate support programs, training, services and referrals to assist victims in need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.