Additional Information from Baltimore/Maryland’s Human Rights Presentation

(*This information was discussed during the presentation but not included in the PowerPoint slides)

Information on the Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative and the Blue Dot Human Trafficking Initiative

Baltimore City has formed a Collaborative of approximately 60 different stakeholders from law enforcement (Local, State and Federal), prosecutors (State and Federal), City and State agencies, hospitals, victim service providers, and other organizations to partner in the effort to combat both sex and labor trafficking in the city of Baltimore. The Collaborative is Co-Chaired by Human Trafficking Coordinator Thomas Stack of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and Council Member Kristerfer Burnett, Baltimore City Council District 8. Additional City Agencies on the Collaborative include the Baltimore City Police Department, Baltimore City Fire Department, Baltimore City School Police, Health Department, Department of Social Services, Mayor’s Office of LBTGQ Affairs. The Collaborative has helped pass several key pieces of legislation to improve our city’s response to this issue and benefits from having the support from the City Council and Mayor.

As the designated center for Forensic Nursing in Baltimore, Mercy Medical Center has developed a collaborative victim service intervention model to meet the various needs of victims of trafficking including medical care, food, shelter, safety, and detox treatment. All of these services are provided free of charge to the victim patient. This model provides law enforcement and emergency medical technicians with a resource that can provide a 24/7 response to any victim of human trafficking. The response is fully mobile to all hospitals across our state or wherever a victim is identified. In two and a half years, this program has reached over 200 victims of trafficking. Cities and hospitals from all across the United States have reached out to replicate this model!

Additional Training Information

Baltimore is home to two of the most renowned and prestigious Schools of Medicine and Nursing in the world. Training on human trafficking has been imbedded in the Medical School, Intern and Residency Program at Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland. As these Doctors and Nurses graduate and go into practice across the globe – the legacy that is created in their practices in respecting human rights and responding to victims of trafficking has a worldwide impact. Baltimore has assured that we teach our physicians, nurses, and healthcare frontline workers that screening and response to human trafficking is a very real way to save lives. As licensed critical care practitioners we are often focused on saving lives in a literal sense, however; rescue, referral and empowerment of these trafficked victims saves lives in a different way – and we are leaders in Baltimore City in recognizing that this is just as important a way to care for patients.

In response to the question of how we identified areas of risk and why we prioritized human trafficking and protecting workers’ rights/labor abuses:

As part of our assessment of risks and potential threats to human rights, we identified populations vulnerable to exploitation and the factors associated with hosting the tournament that could contribute to these types of violations and abuses. This included a consideration of the needs and vulnerabilities of our residents, visitors, and spectators. Stakeholders with expertise on matters related to human rights,
workers’ rights, social justice, diversity, equity, & inclusion were an integral part of this assessment process.

We initially focused on the risks associated with Human Trafficking (Sex, Forced Labor, Debt Bondage and Child Sex), as well as Workers’ Rights and Labor Abuses. We sought to leverage the existing infrastructure and resources that our city/state has already put in place to protect against these human rights violations. The stakeholders who are connected to these issues are also equally involved in responding to and protecting many of the other risk areas that were identified. The vulnerabilities of those exploited through human trafficking and labor abuses include a wide spectrum of social and economic factors. By initially focusing on these areas and engaging with these stakeholders, we believed that we would also be able to address many of the other risk factors that were identified.

**In response to the question of ongoing stakeholder engagement:**

While our law enforcement partners are represented on the various human trafficking task forces and subcommittees, we are planning to expand our engagement efforts with the broader Law Enforcement professionals throughout our state and include them in ongoing conversations related to the issue of public safety as a human rights issue.

In October, members of the Human Rights Factor committee presented at a state-wide human trafficking conference for law enforcement investigators. The presentation included a forum for law enforcement officers to provide insight and recommendations related to public safety considerations and what types of training/resources that law enforcement will need to prepare and effectively respond to incidents of human rights violations. We plan to continue to find ways to engage and seek input from our law enforcement officers as part of our ongoing stakeholder engagement strategy.

We are planning to form a subcommittee including labor organizations and other stakeholders to develop plans for how to prepare, equip, and respond to the areas of risk identified in our report. Current stakeholders and members of the Human Rights Committee will identify additional groups to include in these meetings, which will begin in 2022.

**In response to the question related to how the city will be prepared to provide remedy for all adverse impacts caused by or contributed to by the organizing and delivery of the tournament:**

We plan to utilize multiple forms of print, digital, and social media tools to advertise ways to report or seek help for any crime or violation of human rights. This information will be available in English, Spanish, and French. Signage will be visible in and around our airport, stadium, public transportation stations, highways, and other sites where fans and visitors will gather.
References and Links

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
https://aflcio.org/get-local/maryland

Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force
http://www.mdhumantrafficking.org/

Prevention of Adolescent Risks Initiative at the University of Maryland Baltimore School of Social Work
https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/pari/

Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention Youth & Victims Services
http://goccp.maryland.gov/