Creation of a Criminal Intelligence Analyst Position – Human Trafficking Investigations

Requested Action:

Authorize Acceptance of the Grant.

Summary

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing and most complex forms of organized criminal activity in the United States. Law enforcement agencies are increasingly tasked with identifying trafficking networks that operate across jurisdictions and rely heavily on digital platforms, financial transactions, and social media.

To effectively address this evolving threat, it is recommended that the agency create a **Criminal Intelligence Analyst position dedicated to human trafficking investigations**. This position would enhance investigative capacity by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence related to trafficking activity, allowing detectives to focus on operational enforcement and victim recovery.

The addition of a specialized analyst will strengthen investigative outcomes, improve victim identification, and enhance collaboration with state, federal, and regional partners.

Background

Human trafficking investigations require extensive intelligence development and analysis. Trafficking organizations frequently operate across multiple jurisdictions and utilize sophisticated methods to recruit, transport, and exploit victims. These investigations often involve:

- Social media monitoring
- Online advertisement analysis
- Financial transaction analysis
- Cell phone and digital data exploitation
- Pattern recognition across multiple cases
- Coordination with federal task forces and partner agencies

Detectives are currently responsible for conducting both investigative and analytical tasks. As the volume of digital information and intelligence sources increases, the ability to effectively analyze this data becomes critical to identifying trafficking networks and rescuing victims.

Without dedicated analytical support, valuable intelligence may go unrecognized, delaying investigations and limiting proactive enforcement efforts.

Problem Statement

Human trafficking investigations generate large volumes of data and intelligence that require specialized analysis. Detectives must review online advertisements, social media activity, financial records, and communication data to identify suspects and locate victims.

The lack of a dedicated Criminal Intelligence Analyst creates several challenges:

- Investigators spend significant time conducting analytical tasks rather than field investigations.
- Patterns and links between cases may be overlooked due to limited time for in-depth analysis.
- Intelligence sharing with regional and federal partners may be delayed.
- Opportunities for proactive investigations and victim recovery may be missed.

Given the increasing complexity of human trafficking investigations, the current investigative structure limits the agency's ability to fully address this crime.

Proposed Solution

The agency should establish a Civilian **Criminal Intelligence Analyst position dedicated to supporting human trafficking investigations** within the Criminal Investigations Division.

This position would focus on intelligence gathering, analysis, and information sharing related to trafficking activity.

Key Responsibilities

The Criminal Intelligence Analyst would:

- Collect and analyze intelligence related to human trafficking investigations, and additionally offer assistance, support, and intelligence for other criminal investigations as needed.
- Identify trends, patterns, and connections between suspects, victims, and locations.
- Monitor online platforms used for trafficking recruitment and advertising.
- Conduct link analysis and data analysis using law enforcement intelligence tools.
- Support detectives by preparing intelligence reports and investigative leads.

- Coordinate intelligence sharing with federal partners such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security Investigations.
- Assist with case deconfliction and regional intelligence sharing through systems such as the National Crime Information Center and the Regional Information Sharing Systems.
- Produce strategic intelligence products identifying trafficking trends and emerging threats.

Benefits to the Agency

Increased Investigative Efficiency

A dedicated analyst allows detectives to focus on interviews, surveillance, search warrants, and victim recovery while the analyst processes and interprets intelligence data.

Improved Case Development

Analytical support can uncover connections between suspects, victims, vehicles, phone numbers, and online advertisements that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Enhanced Victim Identification

Human trafficking victims are often hidden within online platforms or transient environments. Intelligence analysis improves the ability to identify and locate victims.

Stronger Regional Collaboration

Human trafficking networks frequently cross jurisdictional boundaries. An intelligence analyst can coordinate information sharing with regional task forces and federal agencies.

Data-Driven Enforcement Strategies

Strategic intelligence products will allow leadership to identify trends and allocate resources more effectively.

Alignment with National Law Enforcement Priorities

Human trafficking enforcement is a priority for federal law enforcement and task forces across the country. Agencies such as the United States Department of Justice and the Department of

Homeland Security have emphasized the importance of intelligence-driven investigations to disrupt trafficking networks.

Adding an intelligence analyst aligns the agency with national best practices and improves eligibility for federal grants and task force participation.

Fiscal Considerations

While the creation of a new position requires budget allocation, the cost will be fully funded through a five-year grant provided by:

- The Howard G. Buffet Foundation through the Maine Multidisciplinary Response Initiative (MTI) Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Services Program.
- The Howard G. Buffet grant provides $125,000 per year, totaling $625,000 over the five years.
- The amount provided by the Howard G. Buffet grant yearly will cover the cost of the total compensation for the position, associated costs of investigative subscriptions, cell phone, and issued laptop. See attached budget document. Although there is a small overage in the fifth year, the total amount provided ($625,000) is still more than the five-year cost of the position.
- Though the position would be funded by The Buffet Foundation Grant, the Analyst would be a full-time employee of Cumberland County. The civilian Criminal Analyst would work under the direction of the CCSO CID Supervisors.
- After the five-year $625,000 Grant provided by The Howard G. Buffet foundation has expired, I would strongly support the County continuing to fund the Criminal Intelligence Analyst position for all of the compelling reasons previously listed.

Additionally, improved investigative outcomes and coordinated enforcement efforts can generate long-term efficiencies for the agency.

Conclusion

Human trafficking investigations require specialized intelligence analysis to identify offenders, dismantle trafficking networks, and rescue victims. The current investigative structure places significant analytical demands on detectives, limiting the agency's ability to fully address this complex crime.

The creation of a **Criminal Intelligence Analyst position dedicated to human trafficking investigations** will significantly enhance investigative capabilities, improve intelligence sharing, and support the agency's mission to protect vulnerable victims and hold offenders accountable.