

Troy Riggs, Chief of Police
50 North Alabama Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Indianapolis Metropolitan
Police Department
City of Indianapolis

May 17, 2016

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), I am pleased to write a letter in support of Ascent 121 for promoting and developing restorative care for adolescents who have been sexually exploited in our City.

Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal enterprise, with estimated profits of \$150 billion worldwide. According to the U.S. State Department, some 27 million men, women and children worldwide are victims of human trafficking, with between 14,000 and 17,500 people trafficked into the United States each year. The average age of human trafficking victims is between 11 and 13 years of age.

Unfortunately, our City is not immune. To that end, IMPD has committed to combat trafficking with a dedicated Human Trafficking Unit, whose sole purpose is to investigate and prosecute human trafficking. In the past six months, the Human Trafficking Unit has investigated almost thirty cases of human trafficking and has obtained three convictions, with another three cases currently filed in Federal Court.

While prosecuting human trafficking is vital, law enforcement action is not enough. There is also a tremendous need for residential and community based non-profit services for trafficked victims. Our Human Trafficking Unit routinely meets with victims of human trafficking referred to us through Child Protective Services and other sources. In turn, the Unit refers victims to local organizations, including Lutherwood Residential Treatment Center and Restored, Inc. Unfortunately, there are more victims than services available. Thus, it is vital that organizations such as Ascent 121 exist to provide solutions that impact lives and ultimately provide safety in our communities.

IMPD fully supports the work that Ascent 121 will achieve through its mission. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 317.327.3285 or Troy.Riggs@indy.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Riggs", is written over a horizontal line.

Troy Riggs, Chief of Police