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# Law would require human trafficking signage at businesses

10 News Staff, WTSP 5:34 p.m. EDT September 25, 2015



(Photo: San Bernardino County Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation)

Clearwater, Florida -- Certain Pinellas businesses may soon be required to post informational signs in their establishments on how victims of human trafficking can get help under a new ordinance.

In a unanimous vote Thursday, Pinellas County commissioners approved a motion for the county attorney to draft an ordinance that would require the signs in businesses like strip clubs, adult entertainment establishments, and businesses that offer massage or bodywork services that are not owned by a health care professional. The signs would include directions on how to contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center tip line at 888-373-7888.

“If one person sees the sign and knows that there is help available – this is worth doing,” said Commissioner Charlie Justice who introduced the motion.

Local human trafficking ordinances were authorized by the legislature in 2015 through a new law (Ch. 2015-172) that becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2016. This law requires signs to be placed in every rest area, turnpike service plaza, weigh station, primary airport, passenger rail station, and welcome center that is open to the public in the state. In addition, the law authorized counties to adopt ordinances extending the requirement to post these signs into certain business establishments.

Once the county attorney drafts the appropriate ordinance language it will be brought back to the commission for a future vote.