



Thursday, May 28, 2026 - 1:00 p.m.  
26<sup>th</sup> Fl. Conference Rooms – A & B  
Fred B. Karl County Center 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order **Connie Rose, Chair**
- II. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation: **Commissioner Cameron-Cepeda**  
Jessica Couvertier, Cristine Boulos/SAO,  
Captain Carlisle/TTPD
- III. Determination of Quorum **Staff**
- IV. Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker, maximum total time 15 minutes)
- V. Review and Approval Meeting Recap 1/22/26 **Connie Rose, Chair**  
3/26/26 Recap deferred until Strategic Plan Session Report is approved
- VI. Agency Partner Guests (7 min each/3 min Q & A) **Kristen Bracy, Director, SAFE Alliance of Tampa Bay**  
**Nancy Hernandez-Rojas is the President / Founder of**  
**Ministerio Mujeres Restauradas Por Dios & Cassia Kranz,**  
**Probation & Parole Service/Correctional Probation Sr.**  
**Officer**
- VII. Vice Chair Report (15 minutes) **Dotti Groover-Skipper, Steering Committee Vice Chair**  
a. Steering Committee Report **and Staff**
  - i. Budget Update
    - a. Town Hall/Community Event/Training (Government & Businesses) Organizing
    - b. Proposal - to increase current contract held by HC's Criminal Justice Grants Department by \$25k to support the current operations of One More Child's Loft 181
    - c. Proposal - Outreach/Engagement Hillsborough County Project (Selah Freedom/Saving Our Adolescence Against Prostitution) replicating the Pinellas County program (\$10 - \$15)
  - b. Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign Sub-Committee Report
- VII. Chair's Report **Connie Rose, Steering Committee Chair**
  - a. Strategic Planning Update Sub-Committee
- VIII. Staff Report (15 minutes) **Lisa J. Montelione, COHT Administrator**
  - a. Procurement Update
  - b. Membership Update
- IX. New/Old Business  
Statewide Task Force & Committee Meeting Information –Documents – Public Records Request pending response  
Gov. DeSantis Appointments Press Release

***Meeting Dates*** (unless noticed otherwise)

All meetings take place at 1:00 pm - Fred B. Karl County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL, 33602

**Steering Committee:** Thursday, June 25, 2026 - 24<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 2416W-A

**Full Board Meeting:** Thursday, July 23 2026 – 26<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Rooms A & B

Statewide Council on Human Trafficking: <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/human-trafficking/council/meetings>

For additional information on the Hillsborough County Commission on Human Trafficking visit their webpage:

<https://hcfl.gov/councils/commission-on-human-trafficking>

COHT Past Board Meeting [playlist can be found here.](#)

*In Appreciation*

Presented to

**Deputy Chief Christine Boulos**

for service to the Hillsborough County  
Commission on Human Trafficking  
November 2023 – April 2026

Presented this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026  
by the Board of County Commissioners  
of Hillsborough County, Florida

Chair  
*Ken Hayes*

Vice Chair  
*Christine Miller*

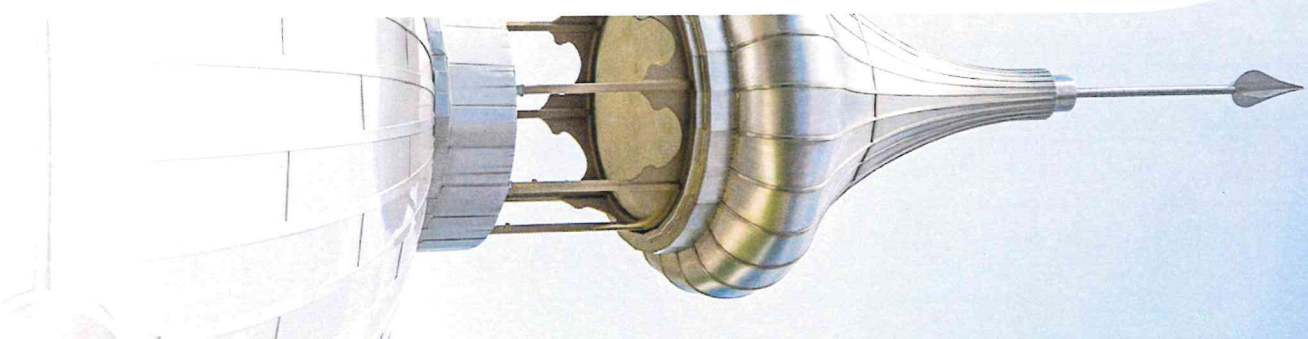
*Stacy Soler*

*Cheri Blair*

Chair  
*Alexa Myers*

*Donna Cameron Cepeda*

*RS*



# *In Appreciation*

Presented to

**Capt. Jacob Carlisle**

for service to the Hillsborough County  
Commission on Human Trafficking  
November 2023 – May 2026

Presented this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026  
by the Board of County Commissioners  
of Hillsborough County, Florida

Chair  
*Ken Hager*

Vice Chair  
*Christine Miller*

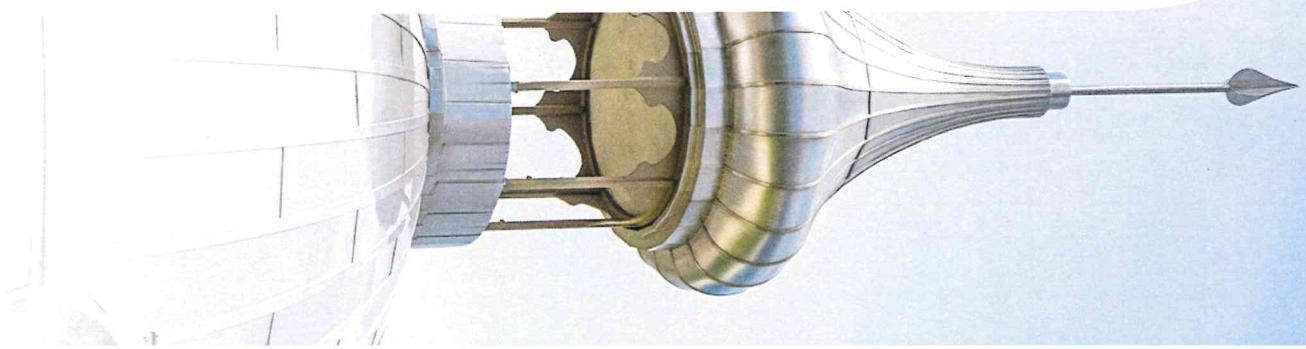
*Stacy Cohen*

*Cheri Bell*

Chairperson  
*Anna Myers*

*Donna Cameron Cepeda*

*RS*



# *The Appreciation*

Presented to

## **Chief Jessica Couvertier**

for service to the Hillsborough County  
Commission on Human Trafficking  
November 2023 – May 2026

Presented this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026  
by the Board of County Commissioners  
of Hillsborough County, Florida

*Ken Hager*  
Chair

*Christina Miller*  
Vice Chair

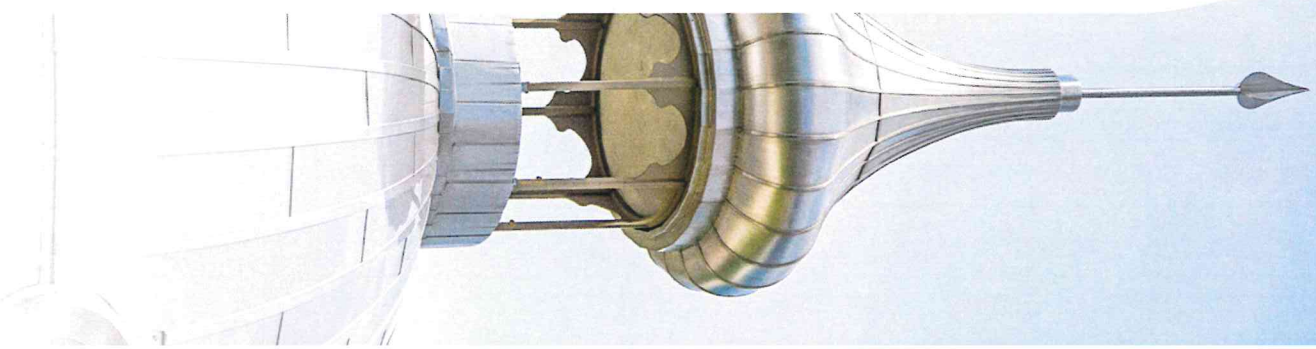
*Stacy Cohen*

*Cheri Bell*

*Aimee Myers*  
Chairperson

*Donna Cameron Cepeda*

*RS*





## Meeting Recap Hillsborough Commission on Human Trafficking Board Meeting – January 22, 2026

**Call to Order:** The 1/22/2026 meeting of the COHT was called to order at 1:03pm by Chair Connie Rose.

**Members Present In-Person:**, BOCC Commissioner Donna Cameron Cepeda, COHT Chair Connie Rose/Lived Experience Expert, COHT Vice Chair Dotti Groover Skipper/COSW, Major Chris Baumann, Sr./HCSO, Det. Brittany English/PCPD, Alex Petrilak/Religious Institutions, Captain Jacob Carlisle /TTPD, Celeste Williams/Victims Services/Redefining Refuge, Ryan Fierst/Port TB, Detective Tony Aguiar/TPD, Samantha Kolb /Community Advocate - Selah Freedom,

**Members Present Virtually:** none. **Members Absent:** 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, School Board, Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, HC Hotel Lodging Association, Visit Tampa Bay, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, HC Aviation Authority

**Guest(s):** Sonja Jordan, Sr. Operations Manager, and Michelle Walker, Executive Director - Miracles Outreach Community Development Center

**Staff Present In-Person:** Lisa J. Montelione/Government Relations & Strategic Services, , HC Health Care Services, Heather Cazzola/Children's Services.

**Quorum** was achieved with 11 members present. Member Mogelnicki departed after the presentation.

**Recap Review:** Motion to approve 11/20/2025 Recap by Member Det. Aguiar, seconded by Member Major Baumann, motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Virtual participant, Joanna Barbolla, inquired about resources for women who believe they are being trafficked but do not know their trafficker and options and a list of nonprofits that do not require knowledge of the trafficker. The administrator clarified that the county does not publish a formal resource list but directed callers to 911, 2-1-1, and nonprofit partners.

### Meeting Summary:

#### Officer Elections:

- Chair Rose was unanimously elected as Chair.
- Vice Chair Groover-Skipper was unanimously re-elected as Vice Chair.
- Secretary position received no nominations and was deferred to the next meeting.
- Discussion clarified that the Secretary role supports recap review, communications, and drafting/approving correspondence.

#### Featured Presentation – *Miracles Outreach*

Key points:

- Organization originally served youth in Sulphur Springs; expanded in 2007 into supporting human trafficking survivors.
  - Provides residential care for youth ages 12–17 and young adults 18–23
  - Services include advocacy, education, outreach, independent living preparation, and community support.



## Meeting Recap Hillsborough Commission on Human Trafficking Board Meeting – January 22, 2026

- Focus on trauma-informed, nonjudgmental environments.
- Notable insights:
  - Majority of referrals come through DCF.
  - Youth often face disrupted education; Miracles Outreach focuses heavily on school stability.
  - They no longer operate a dedicated trafficking home but integrate survivors into supportive placements.
  - Shared community outreach efforts: feeding homeless youth, supporting foster youth, providing emergency essentials.

### **Chair's Report:**

- Multiple commissioners and staff were thanked for heavy involvement in Human Trafficking Awareness Month events.
- County Center lobby event was successful, with participation from several organizations and media coverage on FOX 13 News.
- HT Bus Tour will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with 23 elected officials, potential partner representatives and staff (City and County) in attendance, returning to County Center for Q&A. The Chair invited anyone who couldn't attend the bus tour to attend the Q & A session.
- Semi-Annual Report: delivered the first semi-annual report during the BOCC's January 21<sup>st</sup>, highlighting the COHT's many 2025–2026 accomplishments: RFQs, phone distribution initiatives, trainings, awareness activities.
- Strategic Plan Update Session with Collaborative Labs facilitating will be during the regularly scheduled meeting in March, noted was the extended time to 4:30 p.m.

### **Vice Chair's Report: FKQ Anti-Trafficking Marketing Campaign Committee**

- Vice Chair Groover Skipper mentioned the need to expand membership due to the numerous facets of the work. Members will receive an email request to serve.
- Anti-trafficking campaign outdoor advertising and placement at Tampa International Airport Baggage Claim launched in time for Gasparilla and high-profile sporting events in January and February.
- FKQ's updated media campaign will undergo review by an expanded Social Media Subcommittee.

### **Administrator's Report:**

- **Procurement Update:**
  - RFQ for Community Housing & Support Services remains open through EUNA Procurement System. Questions are to be directed to procurement contact Mr. Wunderly.
  - The Agreement with Children's Network of Hillsborough is moving forward with funding to support stipends for youth victims, specialized training, and continued awareness efforts, pending BOCC approval on Feb. 18 with an effective date retroactive to Feb 1. (Heather Cazzola)
  - FDOT is pursuing an alternative to the County for the Maintenance Agreement for the mural project.



## Meeting Recap Hillsborough Commission on Human Trafficking Board Meeting – January 22, 2026

- **Events & Advocacy -**

- January 15 - Stronger Together: A Community United Against Trafficking: A symposium at the University of Tampa. (Selah Freedom)
- January 28 - The Red Sand event (One More Child). Chair Rose would like a future discussion of partnering with One More Child on the 2027 Red Sand event.
- January 31 Teen/Parent Forum (Top Ladies of Distinction & Top Teens of America)
- February 13 “Message of Hope” event (One More Child / Declare No More).
- The Untold Journey: Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium: Hosted by Tampa General Hospital (TGH) in partnership (Declare No More)

The *Give a Rose* outreach project distributes roses to women in strip clubs has asked for volunteers to prepare the roses and was praised by the Vice Chair for their work.

### **New/Old Business**

- Commissioner Cameron-Cepeda mentioned that she is following up on Commissioner Wostal’s suggestion that the COHT get funding from the Tourist Development Tax
- Vice Chair Groover Skipper commended the election of Chair Rose as the first lived-experience expert leading a government trafficking commission which is a historic milestone.
- Vice Chair Groover Skipper requested that Legislative updates be given at meetings while the Legislature is in session. She mentioned that she and Chair Rose have been working with Statewide Legislative Working Group on HB 1467 / SB 1690 regarding tougher penalties for buyers of commercial sex. If passed it would: escalate misdemeanors/felonies, have community service requirements, with minimum incarceration for repeat offenders.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.



## Steering Committee Meeting Recap

April 14, 2026

**Call to Order:** The 4/14/2026 meeting of the COHT Steering Committee was called to order at 1:05 pm by Vice Chair Groover-Skipper.

**Members Present In-Person:** COHT Vice Chair Dottie Groover-Skipper/COSW, Judge Laura Ward/13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Bureau Chief Mobley/PDO, Tony Aguiar/Tampa PD, Alex Petrilak/Religious Institutions, Celeste Williams/Victims Services/Redefining Refuge, Shayla Gonzales/Crisis Center, Det. Lauren Kelley/TTPD, Aaron Hoefen/HCHLA

**Members Attending Virtually:** Misty LaPierre Halsey/Community Advocate/Selah Freedom, Rosa Webster/COSW (not voting)

**Members Absent:** HCSD Chair Connie Rose, State Attorney's Office, Port Tampa Bay, HCSO, HCSD, Visit Tampa Bay

**Guest(s):** Virtual: Daniela Rodriguez Linares, (MSW Student) Care Manager R.E.A.C.H./IBIS -

**Staff Present In-Person:** Lisa J. Montelione/Government Relations & Strategic Services, Heather Cazzola/Children's Services, Rob Parkinson/Criminal Justice Liaison

**Quorum** was achieved with 9 members present and was maintained during the meeting

**Meeting Recap:** Motion to approve the February 26, 2026 Recap by Member Det. Aguiar, seconded by Member Petrilak, passed unanimously.

Meeting notes:

- **Formation of Strategic Plan Review Committee:** Vice Chair Groover-Skipper requested an ad hoc committee be engaged to review and recommend changes to the updated strategic plan documents, with Members Petrilak, Halsey, Detective Aguiar, Gonzalez, and herself and Chair Rose as members. The Administrator will coordinate a meeting before the Board meeting in May.
  - **Input from Non-Committee Members:** Non-committee members were invited to email comments or suggestions to Lisa, who would compile and share them with the committee prior to their meeting.
- **Administrator's Report:**
  - **Membership:** the Administrator provided updates on board membership changes, including new appointments from the Tampa Police Department and State Attorney's Office. Captain Carlisle will be replaced by Captain Malave from the Temple Terrace Police Department, and Stefanie Simon from the State

Attorney's Office has submitted their application, taking the Alternate position, previously occupied by Christine Boulos. She reminded Members that the deadline for renewing membership or changing the designated member due to the upcoming 90-day moratorium on appointments during the County Commission election year.

- **Procurement Updates:** Survivor Ventures was announced as the awardee of the Emergency Housing Voucher program. The Administrator noted that Chair Rose had previously expressed interest in having the successful contractor attend to introduce themselves at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- **Allocation and Planning of Residual Funds:** Members discussed how to allocate \$50,000–\$60,000 in residual funds before the end of the fiscal year (September 30<sup>th</sup>), considering options explored ideas for direct services and community events, such as behavioral incentive programs for youth, personalized care packages, and collaborative problem-solving activities, while considering risks and the original public awareness mission of the group.
  - **Funding Deadlines and Requirements:** Funds must be invoiced no later than mid-August, with some exceptions.
  - **Back-to-School Event Planning:** A targeted back-to-school event was proposed, focusing on foster youth and potentially using individual wish lists to personalize support, with suggestions to partner with organizations like Titus O'Neill and local churches.
  - **Behavioral Incentive Programs:** Heather described the implementation of behavior plans for foster and community youth, allowing them to work toward incentives such as outings or desired items, with flexibility to support individual needs and progress.
    - Mr. Parkinson detailed the current agreement Hillsborough County has with LOFT 181. The program provides boutique shopping experiences for at-risk youth, and was recommended for contract expansion, with \$25,000 suggested to increase capacity and flexibility for serving youth and adults.
  - **Adult and Family Support:** Member Halsey and others emphasized the need to support adults, especially those with children, through hotel outreach, care



## Steering Committee Meeting Recap

April 14, 2026

packages, and partnerships with organizations like Dress for Success and the Women's Center for job training.

- **Branded Materials and Community Awareness:** Minimal funds will be allocated for branded materials, such as business cards and sticky notes, to support public awareness campaigns and outreach events.
- **Community Event Ideas:** Suggestions included organizing day-out events for youth, such as trips to Busch Gardens or bowling, and collaborative activities to support smaller organizations lacking resources for such experiences.
- **Hotel Outreach and Care Package Logistics:** Member Halsey described a program currently operating in Pinellas County in partnership with S.O.A.P. (Saving Our Adolescence Against Prostitution). It does direct outreach to hotels, including distributing care packages and awareness materials, with a budget estimate of \$10,000–\$15,000 due to Hillsborough County's size and spread. It would consist of multiple boots on the ground events including educating the motel operators on HT identification and risks, assembling and distributing care packages with awareness materials, and storage logistics.
- **Inter-Commission Collaboration (COSW & COHT) and Reimbursement Issues:** reimbursement challenges for lived experience experts were addressed, clarifying the need for MOUs and legal review to avoid conflicts of interest between commissions, and proposed a joint meeting to improve future cooperation.
  - **Proposal for Joint Meeting:** Members supported holding a joint meeting with legal counsel present to clarify cooperation, financial processes, and the establishment of a Friends of Commission on Human Trafficking.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

**FY 2026 COHT BUDGET**  
**Updated 5/19/2026**



**Annually Budgeted Administrative Funds**

Health Care Services Department / Court Administration

<u>Crisis Center</u> for HT Care Coordinator position:	Total: \$ 93,000
<u>Crisis Center Nurse Ambassador</u> position:	Total \$ 100,000
<u>Court Liaison</u> - Courts Administration Budget:	Total \$ 100,000

**FY 26 BUDGETED FUNDS:**

Annual General Revenue Funding	\$267,000	
Carry Over FY 2025 Housing Voucher with Counseling w/Supportive Services program	\$100,000	
Additional one-time General Revenue Funding	<u>\$133,000</u>	
		BOCC Funding FY 2026 \$ 500,000.

**COMMITTED FUNDS – FY26**

RFQ - Housing Voucher with Counseling w/Supportive Services program	\$100,000.	
Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign	\$200,000.	
Foster Children Housing/Support	<u>\$100,500.</u>	
	Total Committed:	\$ 400,500.

**Approved / Paid Expenses (in addition to the Committed Funds above):**

Logo COHT branded table covers:	\$ 205.98	
Bus Tour Debrief event (requested credit/Jessica Reyna 1/30/25 email to reduce charge)		
\$ 73.96		
Update Strategic/Action Plan	\$ 8,998.00	
Strategic Plan Update Meeting - Supplies/Snacks (pending reimbursement)	<u>\$ 130.03</u>	
	Total Paid/Pending Reimbursement:	\$ 9,407.97
	Total Funds Remaining	\$ 90,092.03

**Pending Reserved:**

Training (Gov't Employees/Businesses)	\$ 20,000.00
Community Event	\$ 5,000.00
Town Hall	\$ 5,000.00
Loft 181 (pending approval by COHT vote)	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
Outreach & Engagement-Hotel/Motel (pending approval by COHT vote)	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>
<u>Maintenance Agreement</u>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>

**TOTAL REMAINING FUNDS not yet Committed or Expended: \$ 20,092.03**



**Strategic Plan Review Subcommittee Meeting  
May 6, 2026 - 3pm – 4:30 pm Teams Meeting**

**Members Present Virtually:** VC Dotti Groover-Skipper (COSW), Alex Petrilak (Religious Institutions), Rosa Webster (COSW), Misty Halsey (HT Community Advocate), Det. Aguiar (TPD), Shayla Gonzalez (Crisis Center TB), Connie Rose (V2Survivors)

**Staff Present Virtually:** Lisa J. Montelione/Government Relations & Strategic Services,

Meeting notes: This meeting was held virtually. Due to State of Florida meeting requirements quorum was not met and votes were not taken.

**Meeting Recap**

- **Strategic Plan Review and Edits**
- The group discussed revising the 2030 vision statement for the Commission on Human Trafficking, focusing on making it concise and clear. Members on the call contributed to refining the language, emphasizing survivor-informed practices and broad stakeholder engagement, and removing references to "caucus" in favor of "national impact."
- The value proposition was updated to highlight building partnerships for resources supporting survivors and improving data collection, analysis, sharing and communication.
- The group agreed to change terminology from "victim services" to "survivor services" and to consolidate adult and child/youth sections
- Strategies were reviewed for redundancy and specificity, with several broad or duplicate items (e.g., funding/resource opportunities) marked for removal or consolidation.
- Outreach strategies were discussed, with suggestions that direct outreach be emphasized, recommending broader language to cover various venues.
- The need for clarity in referencing organizations (e.g., Crisis Center of Tampa Bay) and specific supports (e.g., clinician licensing stipends) was addressed.
- The group debated the inclusion of diversion court strategies, ultimately deciding to strike it due to lack of progress and fit.

- Member Webster was tasked with merging and cleaning up the language for survivor services goals and strategies, to be sent to the Administrator for distribution.

### **Sunshine Law Compliance**

- The Administrator reminded the group not to vote or communicate changes directly among themselves via email, but to send edits to her for record-keeping and compliance.
- **Next Steps and Timeline**
- An update will be provided at the May 28th board meeting, noting ongoing work, with a draft expected for the June steering committee meeting and final approval in July by the full board.
- The Administrator noted the need to allocate funds before the end of July, with spending required by September 30<sup>th</sup>, with limited exceptions.



**For Immediate Release:** May 8, 2026

**Contact:** Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282, [media@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:media@eog.myflorida.com)

## **Governor Ron DeSantis Appoints Two to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of Khari James and Emilie Oglesby to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

### **Khari James**

James is the Senior Legal Counsel for the National Center on Sexual Exploitation and an Adjunct Professor at the Florida State University College of Law. Previously, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida and a Human Trafficking Attorney for Legal Services of North Florida. James earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida and her juris doctor from Florida State University.

### **Emilie Oglesby**

Oglesby is the Deputy Secretary of Business Regulation at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Previously, she served as an Assistant Deputy Secretary of Florida Commerce, the External Affairs Manager at the State Board of Administration, and the Director of Communications and External Affairs at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Oglesby earned her bachelor's degree from Auburn University.

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