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SAN DIEGO MOVES TO TOUGHEN UP ENFORCEMENT AGAINST RED LIGHT OPERATIONS
Public Safety Committee Unanimously Directs City Attorney's Office to Strengthen Red Light Abatement

San Diego, CA: Following a discussion item from the City Attorney's Office regarding the City of San Diego's efforts to close illegal establishments relating to prostitution and human trafficking, the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee voted 4-0 to direct the City Attorney's Office to identify municipal code provisions that will strengthen the City's enforcement against red light businesses. The motion was introduced by the Committee Chair, Councilmember Chris Cate, and made by Committee Member, Councilmember Lorie Zapf.

A study released in 2015 by the University of San Diego and Point Loma Nazarene University reported there are up to 8,100 trafficking victims per year in San Diego County while the average age of entry into sex trafficking is 16. The FBI has identified San Diego as one of 13 U.S. cities that is a "high intensity child prostitution area."

"As lawmakers, we need to make it crystal clear that we have zero-tolerance for this type of behavior. It is my hope we can work with the City Attorney's Office to enact a strategy that sends a strong message to anyone associated with this illegal activity; this will not be tolerated and there will be serious consequences. As Chair of the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee, passing legislation to establish San Diego as a leader in closing down and punishing these illegal operations is a priority of the Committee," stated Councilmember Chris Cate.