



**Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement  
In-Person Meeting Agenda  
December 10th, 2024 (11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)  
13805 58th St N, Clearwater, FL 33760, Room #2-304**

The regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement (TBACE) hosted by Pinellas County. The following active members were present and signed in:

Beth Hughes	Pinellas County	Josh Heiser	Manatee County
Michael MacGuiness	City of Bradenton	Cory Hayden	Manatee County
Jessica Ealy	Pinellas County	Joelia Still	Pinellas County
Craig Lyman	City of Bradenton	Charles Boatwright	City of Temple Terrace
Doug Jones	City of Bradenton	Yusef Tourey	City of Clearwater
Larry Hoffman	Hillsborough County	Steven Rivera	City of St. Pete Beach
Keith Vargus	Pinellas County	Luis Cruz	City of St. Pete Beach
Ernest Stevens	Pinellas County	Stefan Burghardt	City of Clearwater
Doug Allen	City of Temple Terrace	Cheryl Ferland	Pinellas County
Laurie Smith	City of Temple Terrace	Jeff Berg	Pinellas County
Steven Valk	City of Temple Terrace	Robert Horne	City of Pinellas Park
Angie Dunne	Pinellas County	Sergio Grillo	City of Pinellas Park
Jude Reazin	Pinellas County	Darrell Brown	Hillsborough County
Jay Schloneger	Pinellas County	Heidi Hartsock	Pinellas County
Kyle Conner	Pinellas County	Arthur Bork	Pasco County
Barbara Riley	City of Tampa	John Spicuglia	Pasco County
Kerry McDermott	Pinellas County	John Stephens	City of Clearwater
Stephen Clack	Pinellas County	David Jehnzen	City of Clearwater
Eric Jewett	Pinellas County	Heather Wyble	City of Gulfport
Shelby Brown	City of Clearwater (Ret.)	Diane Devol	Pinellas County
John Carrion	City of Tampa	Steven Colon	City of Tampa

**1. CALL TO ORDER: 11:40**

TBACE President Doug Allen called the meeting to order and lead the pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the 08/13/2024 minutes by Larry Hoffman, Hillsborough County, and a second by Diane Devol, Pinellas County.

### 3. **TRESURERS REPORT: \$5,016.85**

### 4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

### 5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Elections:** No nomination from floor. A motion to approve the slated candidates, Christine Zien-McCombs as TBACE President, Barbara Riley as Vice-President, Diane Devol as Treasurer and John Carrion as Secretary by Mike McGuinness, City of Bradenton, and a second by Beth Hughes, Pinellas County.
- b. **Awards:** Doug Allen present to Shelby Brown, City of Clearwater (Ret), the TBACE contribution award for her contribution to the Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement.

### 6. **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:** Human Trafficking.

*Introduction:* Guest Speaker Dotti introduced herself and described an overview of human trafficking, described a story of a minor and how it was the catalyst to the beginning of her career in human trafficking advocating.

#### *Topics:*

#### 1. *What is human trafficking?*

Business of exploitation of vulnerabilities for another's gain. Must force, fraud, or coercion for adults, for children is automatic if lured into commercial sex act. Force, fraud or coercion does not apply to cases involving children.

#### 2. *Vulnerabilities below the surface*

LGBTQ, foster care, people that are casted out and taken in by people who exploit are examples of those vulnerable. It is a \$150 Billion dollar industry. Approx 300 billion dollars are laundered in United States each year. Dotti showed a map which show which countries send victims and which countries are destination. Florida is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for reported human trafficking cases. Buyers drive the demand. Legislatively, they are working on the "demand side."

#### 3. *Avenues of Abduction*

Social media, malls, bus stations, churches, are examples.

- a. **The abduction pipeline:** imprisonment of body mind and spirit.
- b. **Hard / soft abduction:** hard is kidnapping, a soft is criminal identifies vulnerabilities, (run-aways, etc). Social media is big on soft abductions.
- c. **Grooming phase:** After recruitment, psychological manipulation in order to build trust. Traffickers use multiple means to control such as, isolation, threats of deportation, and branding (bar code tattoos around neck, wrist, or ankles). Roman numeral #16 is P that stands for Pimp. Upside down 305 is another. Traffickers often speak in emojis. [Netsanity.net/parents-guide-emojis/](https://Netsanity.net/parents-guide-emojis/)
- d. **Entrapment phase:** Forced sex, violence, manipulation of drug addiction establishing domination over victim. Black market: "Romeo pimp" vs. "Guerilla pimp." Romeo nice, Guerilla violent. Black market phase victims can be sold.

4. *Traffickers sold in plain sight*

Restaurants, bars, modeling agencies, hookah bars, aroma therapy, lounges, private parties, RV parks, marinas, parks. Sexually oriented businesses, lingerie studios, etc.

5. *Recognizing the signs*

Victims can't look at other pimps in the eye. Poor hygiene, malnourished, not sure which city or town they are in is huge red flag. Not being able to speak for themselves. Bank-owned homes should be eyed especially, squatters, signs of being in empty building and warehouses. Foreign teens working during school hours. Children during daytime not at school, bruises, signs of bedding. Dwelling with too many people living in it. Interior locks to keep people in not allowing outside access. Victim cannot drive themselves or can't travel alone. Individuals appear fearful, group of people picked up, and dropped off together around the same time on consistent basis. Conversation appear "scripted," or "rehearsed." Code Enforcement Officers are in the frontlines in recognizing signs. Suspicious Activity Report (SAR).

6. *Adult entertainment venues*

Space and environment purchase for commercial sex. Strip club mandate prohibits hiring of employees younger than 21 years old. Human trafficking signage developed in 2014 with help from Pam Bondi, and Ashley Moodi, Dotti stated that she was in the inaugural council. Some people don't know they are actually victims. Regulations, licensing permits, zoning, age verifications.

7. *Legislation on Massage therapy Establishments.*

Bill aimed at regulating massage establishments. Immediate suspension of license (DOH). Enhanced reporting and record keeping, gives officer ability to immediately suspend license. Prohibits sexual activity. Visibility or signage, can no longer have windows blacked out, display all information such as license number with pictures, employee to wear fully opaque clothing. Human trafficking hotline 1-888-373-7888. Massage establishments have many cases of human trafficking. New law prohibits any evidence of anyone even taking a nap within the massage establishment.

**Question:** Do you investigate short-term rentals?

**Answer:** No, work is with victims and survivors.

**Questions:** What is reporting protocol.

**Answer:** Work closely for Sheriffs.

**Question:** Should I call law enforcement for massage parlors

**Answer:** Pinellas County Consumer protection

**Question:** Several different websites promote short-term rentals potential human trafficking sites.

*Answer:*

*Question:* Any male victims?

Answer: Absolutely male victims, labor trafficking, don't know the stats, slowly rising, both boys and men, women can also be traffickers. LGBTQ is high target. Boys being lured in video games and chat groups. Lot of businesses license out of California. Massage workers, a lot come in from China through flushing New York.

*Question:* Why don't adult victims just leave?

*Answer:* Same concept of why domestic violence victims don't leave. Mental chains, not necessarily physical mostly mental. Vulnerabilities.

*Question:* Do you know what happened to 13 year old girl, and girl on the swing?

*Answer:* I don't know.

**Presentation START: 11:50**

**Presentation END: 12:50 PM**

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Secretary:** None

**Treasurer:** None

**Vice president:** None

**President:** None

## **8. ADJOURNMENT: 1255**

Respectfully submitted by:

John Carrion  
**Secretary,**  
**Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement**  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024