

# **HERNANDO COUNTY ADVISORY COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

## **POLICY NO. 44-01**

### **PURPOSE:**

The Hernando County Advisory Commission on Human Trafficking (the "Commission") advises the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") and Hernando County's constitutional officers on implementing practical and general policies that can be taken to improve Hernando County's response to the scourge of human trafficking, including public education and the cooperation of government entities with the private sector.

### **CREATION:**

There is hereby created the Hernando County Commission on Human Trafficking, which shall consist of nine (9) members who shall be appointed by the Board. Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum. The Commission may not take formal actions unless a quorum is present; however, it may meet in absence of a quorum to hear presentations; provided, the meeting has been duly noticed. The Hernando County Health and Human Services Department shall provide the Commission with administrative support.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

The Commission shall consist of nine (9) voting members:

- One (1) named designee of the Hernando County Sheriff; and,
- One (1) named designee of the Hernando County School Board; and,
- One (1) designee of the State Attorney, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Florida; and,
- One (1) resident who is actively engaged in the tourism industry; and,

- One (1) resident who is actively engaged in the health care industry; and,
- One (1) resident who represents faith-based organizations in Hernando County; and,
- One (1) resident who is actively engaged in advocacy related to the prevention of human trafficking; and,
- Two (2) residents selected from the public at-large.

A County Commissioner designated by the Board and the Director of Housing and Supportive Services shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Commission.

Alternate Members. The Board may appoint as many alternate members as it deems to be needed, each of whom shall be appointed in the same manner as regular members. Alternate members may participate in all discussions and deliberations but shall have no right to vote unless acting as a replacement for a regular committee member who failed to attend such meeting, or if the Board of County Commissioners is unable to appoint a regular member who satisfies the requirements of one of the above-designated positions on the Commission.

The Board shall solicit and appoint the initial members of the Commission, and fill any vacancies that thereafter occur, pursuant to Hernando County Board Policy No. 06-01, as it may be amended. Members shall be able to devote the time necessary to participate in the activities of the Commission. Members shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties as members of the Commission.

The Board shall randomly select four (4) Commission members to serve an initial one (1) year term, with the others serving two (2) year terms. After the initial staggered terms, all members' terms shall be for four (4) years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment. The Board may remove a member of the Commission for any reason.

## **OFFICERS:**

The Commission shall elect a Chairperson to preside at all meetings. The Chairperson shall be elected at the first meeting at which the Commission is convened and thereafter in December of each year and

shall serve until the first meeting in December of the following year. There shall be no term limits for a member to serve as Chairperson.

The Commission shall elect a Vice-Chairperson to preside and act on behalf of the Chairperson during his or her absence. The term of office and method of election for the Vice-Chairperson shall be the same as the Chairperson.

## **MEETINGS:**

Meetings shall be held every other month for the first six (6) months of the Commission's existence. Thereafter, the Commission may meet more or less frequently as needed. Meetings shall be publicly noticed in the manner provided by Florida law.

## **DUTIES:**

Formulation of General Policies. The Commission shall advise the Board on practical and general policies concerning improvements to Hernando County's response to sex trafficking.

Policies For Cooperation. The Commission shall advise the Board on practical and general policies concerning the cooperation of Federal, State, and local governments, child welfare agencies, social service providers, physical health and mental health providers, victim service providers, law enforcement agencies, specialty courts with responsibility for conducting or supervising proceedings relating to child welfare or social services for children and their families, juvenile detention centers, youth programs, schools, the gaming and entertainment industries, and businesses and organizations that provide services to youth. This includes, but is not limited to the development and implementation of (1) successful interventions with persons who are exposed to conditions that make them vulnerable to, or victims of, sex trafficking; and (2) recommendations for administrative or legislative changes necessary to use programs, properties, or other resources owned, operated, or funded by Hernando County to provide safe housing for sex trafficking victims and to support entities that provide housing or other assistance to such victims.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS:**

All Commission meetings shall be open to the public and subject to the applicable provisions of the Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. Chapter 286. The records of the Commission shall be subject to the applicable provisions of the Florida Public Records Law, Fla. Stat. Chapter 119. Members of the Commission shall be subject to the applicable provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Fla. Stat. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, including but not limited to Fla. Stat. §§ 112.313 -- 112.3143.

## **TERM:**

Six (6) years after the date of adoption of this policy, the Board shall review the activities of the Commission to determine whether the Commission still serves a necessary function and should continue in existence.

Proposed: January 28, 2025

Approved as to Form & Legal Sufficiency

  
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County Attorney's Office