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# PORTLAND, OREGON

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## **Dedicating funds for human trafficking victims services through asset forfeiture proceeds**

Everyday in Portland, women and children are bought and sold for sexual purposes. The Oregon Department of Human Services and the Portland Police Bureau have currently identified 100-130 juveniles as suspected or confirmed victims of human trafficking. Next Wednesday, October 27, City Council will consider an ordinance to use assets forfeited from prostitution crimes and direct them to services for victims of human trafficking. This revenue source will be the City's first sustainable funding stream dedicated to combating human trafficking. Also, the threat of forfeiture is aimed to deter johns and also to dismantle a pimp's "business".

### **What ability does the City have to seize these assets?**

The City has a legal tool called asset forfeiture, which legally allows us to confiscate property that is used in the crime. This ordinance will enable to City to confiscate any items, such as vehicles, computers, cell phones, or cash that are used to commit, compel, promote, or facilitate prostitution.

### **How will the proceeds from asset forfeiture be used?**

75% of the forfeiture proceeds will be directed toward a fund for victims, which will include funding for shelter services and direct victim services. The remaining 25% will be used by law enforcement to continue human trafficking work, including investigations and missions.

### **How much revenue will this generate?**

While the City does not have any estimates of revenue derived from prostitution-related forfeitures, last year forfeiture proceeds contributed to approximately \$1 million in Police revenue, much of which resulted from drug cases. In the last decade, forfeiture proceeds reached a high of \$6 million, though many factors have decreased that amount. We anticipate the forfeiture proceeds to increase again with the City's recent hiring of outside counsel to manage forfeiture cases.

### **Are trafficking victims impacted by forfeiture?**

No. The City recognizes that these women and children are victims, thus this ordinance will also amend the City's forfeiture code to exclude victims.