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Program on human trafficking slated for Wednesday

Staff Report

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SOCIAL WIRE

Sen. Andy Dinniman

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State Sen. Andy Dinniman, D-19th of West Whiteland, will be a guest speaker Wednesday evening at "Facing the Monster: Slavery Then and Now," an event supporting Nation Human Trafficking Awareness Month at the Chester County Historical Society.

The event begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The Historical Society is located at 225 North High Street in West Chester. It is open to the public.

At the event, Dinniman will discuss new legislation and efforts to combat human trafficking, including Act 197 of 2012, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Notification Act, which took effect last month.

"Due to the covert nature of human trafficking and a lack of awareness, accurate statistics are difficult to obtain, but there is no doubt that modern day slavery is taking place in Pennsylvania and our region," Dinniman said in a prepared statement. "We've taken some important steps to crack down on

this fast-growing criminal enterprise, but more needs to be done. A key part of the battle is bringing the public's attention to the problem and shedding light on the scourge of human trafficking."

Last session, the legislature unanimously passed Act 197. It requires travel centers such as airports, train and bus stations, as well as certain businesses, like adult clubs, and bars and hotels found to be drug-related nuisances by the Pennsylvania State Police to post a human trafficking hotline poster in a clearly visible area. The law also calls for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to work to provide support services, including housing, health care, child care, substance abuse counseling, career assistance and legal assistance to the victims of human trafficking.

In addition, Dinniman is the prime co-sponsor of Senate Bill 75, legislation that would improve and better define Pennsylvania's human trafficking laws, so that they can be better used by law enforcement. According to Dinniman's representatives, the current legal definition of human trafficking is vague, making it difficult to effectively prosecute perpetrators, who are often charged with other crimes and allowed to plea to lesser charges. In addition, victims of human trafficking can face prostitution charges even though they have been forced into the sex trade.

"To effectively fight human trafficking, we must give law enforcement personnel the tools they need to bring perpetrators to justice and help victims begin the path to recovery," Dinniman said. "That is why we must pass Senate Bill 75 to tighten and strengthen the law."

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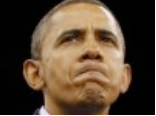


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normajeana 3 hours ago

You have given law enforcement personnel sufficient tools- and they misuse them. Across the country, the main perpetrator of violence against sex workers is cops. Cops use the laws to extort us for sex, money and information. Cops like Reading PA officer Ronald Miko- who participated in the trafficking of underage girls, or Pottstown PA officer Brian L. Mabry who robbed and sexually assaulted a prostitute. The victim testified that Mabry "threw her to the ground and placed her in a headlock," police indicated in the report. The victim said Mabry kept repeating "You don't know who you're (expletive) with."

Or like Middlesex Township PA officer Kenny Johnson who was convicted of bribery and promoting prostitution; Police chiefs like Green Tree (PA) police chief Andrew Lisiecki who got naked and let a prostitute perform a sexual act before making the arrest... or Runnemede PA Police Chief James Martin Leason, who was caught in a prostitution sting, attempting to set up his own little brothel with a local madam. The list is endless. But if you prefer to allow this corruption and abuse to continue (because this is NOT a crusade against human trafficking, it is a crusade against consenting adult commercial sex)- then you will...

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