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## Commentary on The City of Calgary Prostitution Response Framework

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A Million Acts of Sustainability

Presentation to: SPC on Community and Protective Services  
regarding Agenda Item 3.4  
June 4, 2014

### Background of Human Trafficking and Prostitution

#### Human Trafficking and Prostitution are inextricably linked

- 79% of human trafficking involves sexual exploitation through prostitution, where the majority of those who are being sexually exploited are women and children. (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime)
- Research from the London School of Economics found that countries which have legalized prostitution have higher human trafficking inflows. (Cho, Dreher and Neumayer, 2013 World Development)
- Unfortunately, legislative and enforcement practices utilized in many countries make these issues separate and distinct.

#### Sexual exploitation embodies a significant part of prostitution

- Interviews conducted in nine different countries demonstrate that 89% of individuals in prostitution want to leave. (Farley et al 2003 J Trauma Practice)
- Interviews conducted in San Francisco show 82% of individuals in prostitution have been physically assaulted and 68% were raped while working as a prostitute. (Farley and Barkan 1998 Women and Health)

### **Proposed Initiative One – Establishing Calgary Police Service Guidelines on Prostitution**

- The guidelines will speak to the Police Service's philosophy on violence against prostitutes and the enforcement of new prostitution-related legislation.
- Calgary Police Service may want to consider consultation with other Canadian law enforcement agencies regarding the existence and/or establishment of such guidelines.
- Calgary Police Service will use these guidelines as a basis to develop rapport and relationships with this marginalized and stigmatized population in society.

### **Proposed Initiative Two – Review, propose and implement applicable changes to specific bylaws**

- Bylaws pertaining to escort services, massage, body rub, adult entertainment and home-based businesses should be reviewed in light of the new prostitution-related legislation.
- The constitutional challenge by Bedford *et al*, and the results from the City of Calgary public submission speak to the issue of moving prostitution behind closed doors.
- Strict municipal regulations and bylaws which balance health and safety of prostitutes with concerns involving social nuisance (i.e. traffic, litter, etc...) need to be established.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to Councillor Colley-Urquhart for giving us the opportunity to address the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services

Thank you to the members of the multi-departmental City working group for creating the City of Calgary Prostitution Response Framework

Thank you to the members of the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services for addressing the issue of prostitution in Calgary

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