

12/14/16 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



BAKER COLLEGE TAKES ON THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

"Human Trafficking in Flint, Genesee County and the rest of the United States is and has been an uncomfortable topic involving many facets including many socio-economic factors. These facts coupled with shrinking law enforcement budgets have made these crimes ever more difficult to identify and prosecute," warns Baker College of Flint Campus Safety Director John Joseph.

Joseph, a retired Sergeant of the Flint Police Department who led investigations involving Homicide, Domestic Violence, Prostitution and Drug crimes hosted an official full-day training in Human Trafficking Awareness and Identification on December 6, 2016.

Participants included many area leaders from organizations like Baker College of Flint Public Safety, emergency 911 dispatch, local police departments, and the Genesee County Human Trafficking Task Force. Special Agent, Hank Impola from the FBI Detroit Field Office, provided details about human trafficking in Genesee County, including specific case samples, the sub-cultures of prostitution and drugs, online sex ads and strategies for investigation. Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Genesee County, John Potbury also discussed the new Michigan laws and relevant charges that now can be brought in prosecuting those that commit these severe crimes against persons.

Joseph believes that "raising our communities' collective awareness of these crimes is the first step law enforcement and its partners, like the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office, Genesee County Crime Stoppers and s7 Consulting, can take to rid our neighborhoods of the people who prey on our at-risk members.

The crimes of Trafficking in PERSONS (TIP) is not only a public safety concern but largely a human rights violation. These violations or exploitations of the "commodity" of PERSONS, directly and negatively affect the health of individuals and families in our communities. Lisa Radak MBA, BHS, RT and Dean of the College of Health Science of Baker College also was in attendance at the training. Radak had this to say:

"Baker College is taking a proactive approach in the training process by including education and training in our introductory health professions course and threading this content throughout our curriculum. Our hope is that bringing awareness to this global public health problem, not only will our students be well informed healthcare students, they will also be safe and have information that will aid in identifying any individual who may become a victim of human trafficking."

Julie Lopez, Director of [Crime Stoppers of Flint and Genesee County](#) who was instrumental in bringing this education to the Flint area, would like to encourage you to call 911 in any emergency. However, if you know of a potential human trafficking situation, or suspect that someone is being threatened or forced into prostitution and you would like to remain anonymous. Please call

The logo is a red octagon with a white border. Inside, there is a large black letter 'C' on the left. To the right of the 'C', the word 'rime' is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. Below the 'C' and 'rime', the word 'STOP' is written in white on a red octagonal background, and the word 'PERS' is written in black to its right. At the bottom of the octagon, the phone number '1-800-422-JAIL' is written in black.

CASH REWARDS ANONYMOUS
1-800-422-JAIL
CRIME STOPPERS OF FLINT & GENESEE COUNTY 

This January in National Human Trafficking Awareness month. Get involved. Learn how to recognize the signs and respond to the crimes of Human Exploitation for Profit. Go to [Genesee County Human Trafficking Task Force](#) for more information.