

Good Morning.

The “FIRST DUTY” of government – at all levels of OUR government – local, state and federal – is to PROTECT our people.

This “FIRST DUTY” of government – is at its HIGHEST – when sex traffickers TARGET OUR children.

WE ARE GOING AFTER these child sex traffickers.

WE – – in local, state and federal law enforcement – – are ALL working together as a TEAM – – to DISMANTLE their networks – and to PURSUE – PROSECUTE – and PUNISH – those involved.

OPERATION “STOLEN INNOCENCE” is an EXCELLENT example – of how ALL LEVELS of LAW ENFORCEMENT – can “put it all together and get it done” – to TAKE DOWN a child sex trafficking network – right here in this community.

LOCAL law enforcement – is the “FRONT LINE” – of ALL law enforcement in this country.

More than 85 percent of all law enforcement in this Country – is STATE and LOCAL law enforcement.

Local law enforcement agencies – KNOW THEIR COMMUNITIES – like the “BACKS OF THEIR HANDS.”

State Attorney Jack Campbell – Police Chief Lawrence Revell – Sheriff Walt McNeil – and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement – AND the dedicated law enforcement professionals who work with them – have truly been the “FRONT LINE” of this Operation.

FEDERAL law enforcement – – RELIES HEAVILY – on the EQUAL PARTNERSHIP – of STATE and LOCAL law enforcement agencies – to effectively “DO WHAT WE DO.”

Federal law enforcement brings some KEY RESOURCES to SUPPORT our STATE and LOCAL PARTNERS.

These RESOURCES include – skilled federal prosecutors, expert investigators, amazing technical tools and – VERY IMPORTANTLY – “VICTIM ASSISTANCE SPECIALISTS.”

Our focus is NOT ONLY – on bringing JUSTICE and ACCOUNTABILITY to the traffickers – – AND to those who ENABLE and ASSIST them —

We focus – AS WELL – on PROTECTING – GUARDING – and ASSISTING the child victims of these traffickers.

We help IDENTIFY and LIBERATE the victims – – AND then we HELP put them on the PATH TO RECOVERY.

Our LEAD federal prosecutor is MICHELLE SPAVEN – whose mission is to bring JUSTICE and ACCOUNTABILITY to these traffickers.

Our “VICTIM ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST” is KELLI DOUGHERTY – whose mission is to help put the victims on the PATH TO RECOVERY – AND help them begin NORMAL – HEALTHY – and PRODUCTIVE lives.

The LEAD FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT agencies in this Operation – are the Department of Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”) – and the United States Marshal’s Service.

## RECOGNIZE

- AUSA – – MICHELLE SPAVEN
- Victim Witness Specialist – – KELLI DOUGHERTY
- HSI – – Special Agent – – ERIC EICK
- USMS Deputy Commander – – Florida Caribbean Regional Fugitive Task Force – – MARTY WEST

Michelle Spaven has also been sworn in as a “Special Assistant State Attorney” so that she can also work together with State Attorney Jack Campbell – and Assistant State Attorney Lorena BUENO – on the cases that will be prosecuted in the STATE court.

In this Operation – and other similar operations – there has been TREMENDOUS – TEAMWORK – COORDINATION – and COLLABORATION – between these local, state and federal law enforcement agencies –

- To put all of these STATE and FEDERAL cases together.
- To DETECT – – DISRUPT – – DISMANTLE – – and DESTROY – – these child trafficking networks.
- To track the money – and unlock the financial chains – AND –
- To better UNDERSTAND – the CONNECTION of child sex trafficking networks – to other forms of ORGANIZED CRIME, VIOLENCE and CORRUPTION.

BUT – our work is NOT DONE.

Regrettably – there is no “FINISH LINE” here.

The local, state and federal TEAM – that we have assembled here – must remain in place – and it must remain vigilant.

For so long as I am the United States Attorney – I will do everything that I can – to make sure that these federal resources CONTINUE to support this TEAM – and CONTINUE to assist your State Attorney – your Police department – and your Sheriff – as they PROTECT OUR CHILDREN – and GUARD this community.

IN ADDITION TO these law enforcement AGENCIES – that bring JUSTICE and criminal ACCOUNTABILITY to those involved in child sex trafficking — it is PARTNERSHIPS – AMONG law enforcement – the private sector – academic institutions – the MEDIA – civil society and faith-based organizations – that we need – for the LONG-TERM SUPPORT – ASSISTANCE and RECOVERY of these young victims.

We must not overly FOCUS on these traffickers – – and FORGET the victims. The victims need OUR help. We must ALL be there for them – in every way that we can.