



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • John Born, Director
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Ohio Department of Public Safety and Columbus Regional Airport Authority Partner to Offer Human Trafficking Training to Airport Employees

COLUMBUS—Employees at Port Columbus International Airport are now a part of Ohio’s frontline response in the fight against human trafficking, thanks to a partnership between the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, which operates Port Columbus. The collaboration produced a 25-minute video teaching airport employees to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report suspected trafficking situations.

“Strides are continuing to be made in Ohio regarding the fight against human trafficking,” said ODPS Director John Born. “This is life-saving work and partnerships like this are vital in order to make our state and world a safer place.”

Airport staff can view the training via DVD or YouTube. Initial training has been rolled out to airport police with plans under way to educate others who work at the airport, which serves nearly 7 million passengers a year.

“Airport police and front-line employees such as custodians, TSA personnel and airline ticket agents are in unique positions to recognize the signs of forced labor,” said Elaine Roberts, President & CEO of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority. “With thousands of trained eyes at Port Columbus we’ll be better positioned to stop modern-day slavery coming in and going out of our city.”

In March 2012, Gov. Kasich signed an Executive Order creating the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, charging the group with marshaling state resources to combat human trafficking. To learn more about Ohio’s anti-trafficking efforts, please visit humantrafficking.ohio.gov.

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