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PRESS CONFERENCE

April 16, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.
601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA

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Former Sex Traffic Survivor and Advocate
Protocol for Response to Human Trafficking in Solano
*Carissa Phelps, CEO of Runaway Girl, Brings Hope to Victims and
Insight to Law Enforcement*

District Attorney Donald du Bain announced today that instructor Carissa Phelps, now CEO of [Runaway Girl](#), FPC (a California flexible purpose corporation), ran away from home at age 12 will be the speaker at the April 16th Protocol for Response to Human Trafficking. She dropped out of school, missing grades 7th, 8th and 9th, and fell into the arms of a brutal pimp, who made her walk the streets of central California. Even when she escaped him she could not outrun the crushing inner pain of abuse, neglect and abandonment. But then her life was transformed through the unexpected kindness of a math teacher and a counselor. By the time Carissa turned 30, she accomplished the unimaginable: graduating from UCLA with a law degree and MBA. In her memoir, [Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets, One Helping Hand at a Time](#), Carissa shares how the unexpected kindness of a math teacher and a counselor transformed her life and helped her become a mentor and advocate. Those participating in the training include terrorism liaison officers (TLOs) who come from a number of public service backgrounds: peace officers, firefighters, state investigators, federal agents, military investigative personnel or anyone working closely within the homeland security community.

Hosted by the Central California Intelligence Center (CCIC) – a fusion center critical to fighting human trafficking by sharing information and intelligence – information is converted into operational intelligence to detect, deter and defend against major criminal threats in the Chico area. Carissa will lead a workshop for law enforcement officers and TLOs on how to address human trafficking survivors especially when they are hesitant to work with officials or not requesting services or help. Specific human trafficking victim response skills will be covered, with exercises to illustrate the full spectrum of human trafficking from labor or sex trafficking, domestic and international.

Working with the CCIC, Carissa, a licensed attorney and founder of Runaway Girl, organizes survivors of human trafficking around resources, networks, business, and local efforts to protect

and care for survivors within their own communities. Runaway Girl trainings improve protocols and responses to child sex trafficking within communities, while offering employment and career development opportunities to runaways, former runaways, and survivors of trafficking. See more at runawaygirl.org.

Special Note: The workshop is for law enforcement only because of the sensitive nature of the training materials, and therefore is not open to the public or media. Carissa Phelps and Solano County District Attorney Donald A. du Bain will hold a press conference at noon for the media to discuss how law enforcement and the DA's office are responding to this growing crime. The event will take place at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA.