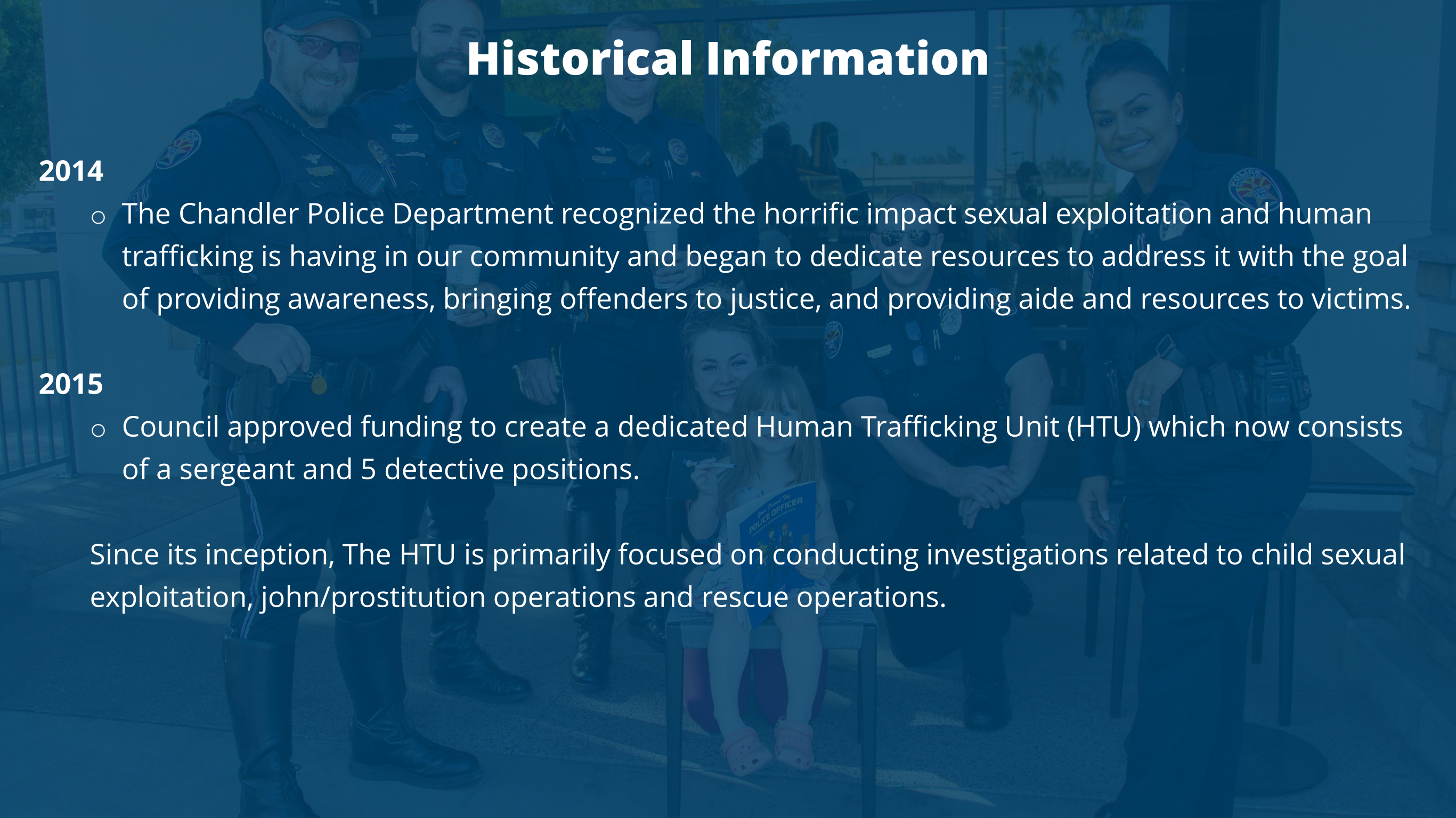


Human Trafficking Presentation

Chandler Police Department
August 17, 2023





Historical Information

2014

- The Chandler Police Department recognized the horrific impact sexual exploitation and human trafficking is having in our community and began to dedicate resources to address it with the goal of providing awareness, bringing offenders to justice, and providing aide and resources to victims.

2015

- Council approved funding to create a dedicated Human Trafficking Unit (HTU) which now consists of a sergeant and 5 detective positions.

Since its inception, The HTU is primarily focused on conducting investigations related to child sexual exploitation, john/prostitution operations and rescue operations.

Undercover Operations

Over the last year the Human Trafficking Unit has participated in dozens of undercover operations that are designed to increase our efforts in reducing crime associated with human trafficking. Some of these operations include:

- Predator operations focusing on buyers of sex with minors/children resulting in 40 arrests year to date.
- Prostitution stings involving buyers of sex with adults ("john" ops), resulting in 25 arrests year to date.
- Park operations focusing loitering, public sexual indecency, etc. in city parks resulting in 10 arrests year to date.
- Rescue operations identifying 25 potential sex trafficking victims and offering services to escape the prostitution lifestyle.

Undercover Operations, cont.

Additionally, the police department hosted two multi-agency Predator Operations in 2023, Operation Blue Wave '23 (Super Bowl) and Operation Creeper Sweeper.

This was a collaborative effort among:

- FBI's Child Exploitation and Sex trafficking Task Force
- Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)
- Phoenix Police Department's HEaT Unit
- Mesa Police Department's HEaT Unit
- Tempe Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Program
- Gilbert Police Department
- Glendale Police Department

These operations resulted in 31 felony arrests.

Special Assignments and Accomplishments

CPD Detective Mike Russo is assigned to the FBI's Human Trafficking Task Force and focuses his efforts on human trafficking and sexual exploitation investigations.

While representing Chandler, Detective Russo has participated in dozens of successful human trafficking operations. Most recently, he participated in Operation Cross Country and Operation Clean House. These were collaborative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement resulting in:

- 31 felony arrests for predators attempting to meet with juveniles
- 5 juveniles recovered
- 1 trafficker arrested

Detective Russo has trained federal, state, and local officers across the country in undercover human trafficking investigations. In December Det. Russo was recognized by FBI Director Christopher Wray for his efforts in conducting Human Trafficking investigations.



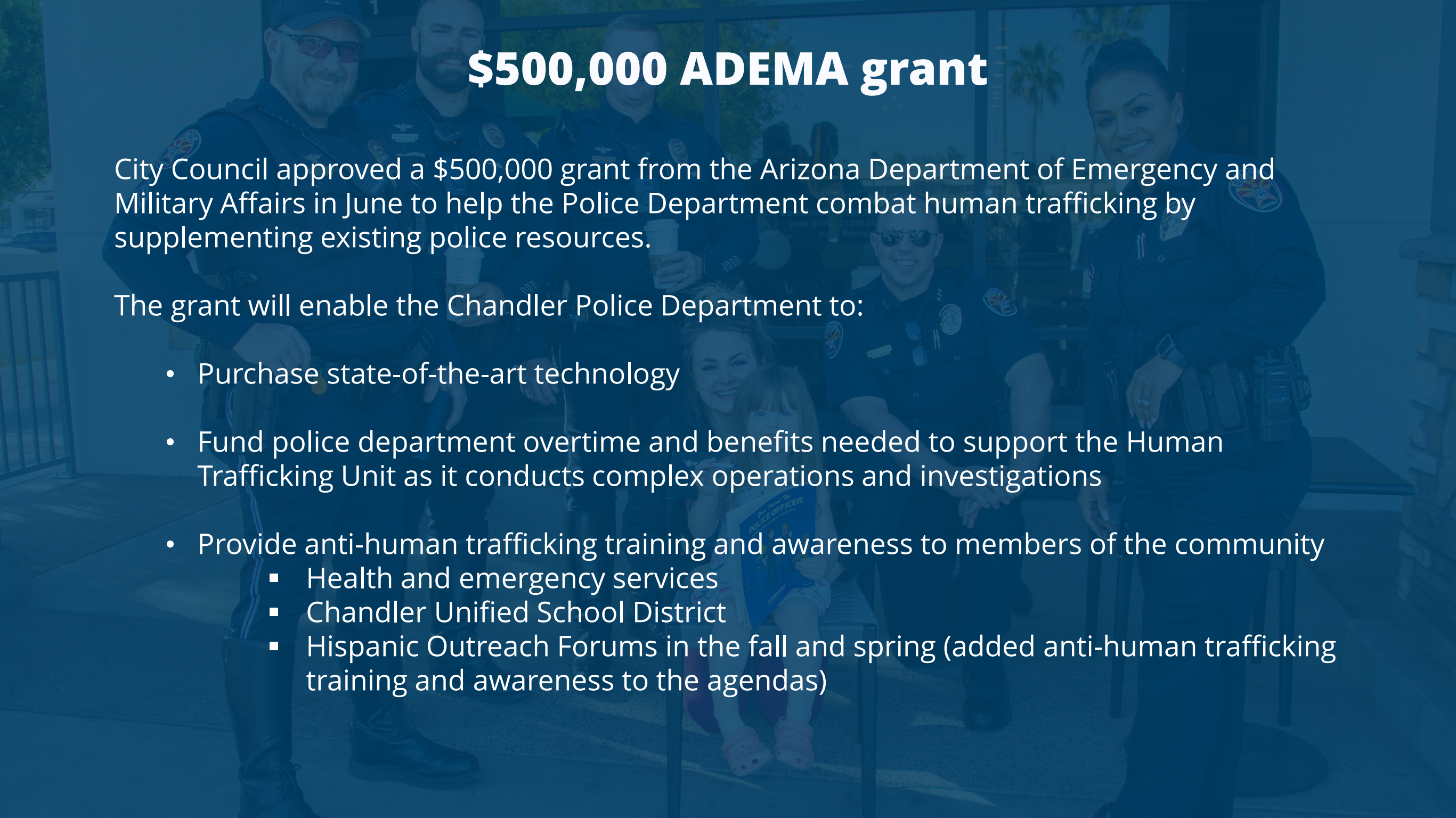
Community Partners

The Chandler HTU has partnered with the Arizona Anti Trafficking Network (AATN) to combine our efforts in public education and awareness of human trafficking. The following community partners that benefit from this training include but are not limited to:

- Health and emergency services (Chandler Regional Medical Center, Banner Ocotillo and urgent care centers)
- The Chandler Unified School District
- ICAN
- Group/Foster Homes for troubled youth
- Chandler Fashion Mall management/employees
- Hotels/Motels

Our Victim Services Unit works in partnership with non-profits, to provide resources for all victims contacted who want to separate themselves from a life of prostitution:

- Arizona Trust
- Winged Hope
- StreetLightUSA

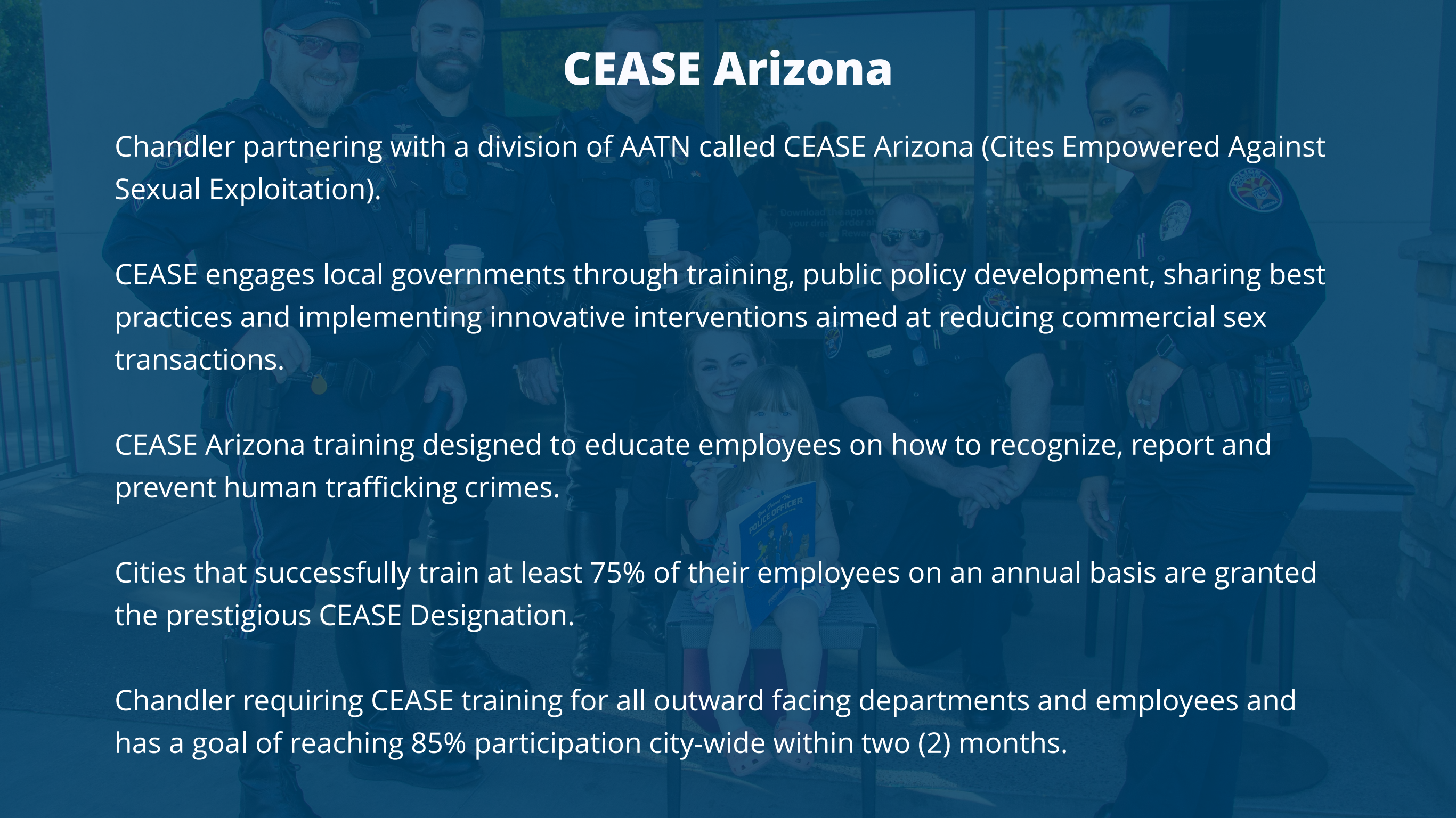


\$500,000 ADEMA grant

City Council approved a \$500,000 grant from the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in June to help the Police Department combat human trafficking by supplementing existing police resources.

The grant will enable the Chandler Police Department to:

- Purchase state-of-the-art technology
- Fund police department overtime and benefits needed to support the Human Trafficking Unit as it conducts complex operations and investigations
- Provide anti-human trafficking training and awareness to members of the community
 - Health and emergency services
 - Chandler Unified School District
 - Hispanic Outreach Forums in the fall and spring (added anti-human trafficking training and awareness to the agendas)



CEASE Arizona

Chandler partnering with a division of AATN called CEASE Arizona (Cites Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation).

CEASE engages local governments through training, public policy development, sharing best practices and implementing innovative interventions aimed at reducing commercial sex transactions.

CEASE Arizona training designed to educate employees on how to recognize, report and prevent human trafficking crimes.

Cities that successfully train at least 75% of their employees on an annual basis are granted the prestigious CEASE Designation.

Chandler requiring CEASE training for all outward facing departments and employees and has a goal of reaching 85% participation city-wide within two (2) months.

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Questions?

