

**NEWS
RELEASE**

January 28, 2014

CITY OF PADUCAH, KY



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**Latest Episode of *PHRC, Raising the Standard*
Focuses on the Assistant U.S. Attorney's Office
and on Human Trafficking**

PADUCAH, KY— On the latest episode of *PHRC, Raising the Standard*, the Paducah Human Rights Commission (PHRC) focuses on the role of the U.S. Attorney's Office and other Department of Justice agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in enforcing human rights laws. The second half of the hour-long episode is dedicated to bringing awareness to the topic of human trafficking. The new episode of *PHRC, Raising the Standard* can be seen on Government 11 starting this week. It airs Wednesday at 9 a.m., Friday at 9 p.m., and Saturday at 5 p.m. PHRC Chair Dr. Bernice Belt and Commissioner Shulorn Jeter co-host the program.

The two guests for the episode are Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda Gregory and FBI Agent Mike Brown. The first half of the program educates the viewer about the numerous agencies working to enforce laws and protect human rights. Gregory says, "There are so many government agencies that are looking to protect people's rights, both civil and criminal, to make sure people aren't discriminated against and to make sure they have the opportunity to participate in both civic and political life."

The second half of the episode clarifies misconceptions and explains the types of human trafficking. According to Brown, "Human trafficking is probably the third largest or most engaged in crime in the U.S. following only drug and gun trafficking." He adds that human trafficking is an underreported crime with a wide variety of organized crime syndicates down to individuals perpetuating the crimes.

Brown explains that human trafficking involves either compelled labor or compelled commercial sex acts that include force, fraud, and coercion. Brown adds, "More often than not it's not a violent snatching off the street, it's a recruitment process. Someone goes out and makes contact with these kids or people where they are, and they do an assessment and ask, is this person vulnerable." Brown and Gregory end the episode by explaining what it takes to build a case against a trafficker.



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PHRC members are Dr. Bernice Belt, Bob Bloomingburg, Robert Cross, Lincoln Hardy, Shulorn Jeter, Craig Newbern, Jr., Gary Reese, and Matthew Schultz. The PHRC was formed in 1964. If you are interested in serving on the board or if you need assistance, visit www.paducahky.gov or call the office at 444-8643.

View daily program information by watching the informational slides airing on the Channel 11 bulletin board. The episode also is online at www.paducahky.gov and the various social media outlets for the City of Paducah including Youtube and Facebook. Check the website for program information, videos, news releases, and broadcast schedules. *PHRC, Raising the Standard* is produced through the television production facilities at West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

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