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Mr. Buckmaster:

I am writing to express my strong disagreement with Craigslist's actions that are tantamount to tolerating the sex trafficking of minors in your erotic services section.

While I appreciate the goal of Craigslist to maintain a company with a primarily philanthropic mindset, philanthropy by definition requires the "voluntary promotion of human welfare." Unfortunately, in direct violation of Craigslist stated ideals, its "Erotic Services" section is currently being used – and remarkably effectively – by pimps and traffickers. A recent case that made headlines, was the January 11, 2007 Cook County, Illinois arrest of three adults, two of which were posting advertisements on Craigslist for girls ranging in age from 14 to 16 years old to perform sex acts. ABC 7 Chicago reported that "some of these girls were forced to turn 10, 12 tricks a day resulting in tens of thousands of dollars for the pimps." (See full article on ABC7Chicago.com at: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=4928094>)

Prior to 1999, every post on Craigslist was reviewed and posted manually. It was you who moved the site to a self-service model and added the flag system, where users are able to flag a potential problem. These ideas boosted Craigslist revenue by millions of dollars, but at what cost?

Like it or not, Craigslist has become a major vehicle for prostitution, which has subsequently led to the trafficking of children. Craigslist provides a resource for those seeking to exploit and victimize children and adults in prostitution. As such Craigslist has a responsibility to take the necessary actions to prevent these illegal activities from occurring on its website. Child exploitation on Craigslist is able to flourish due largely to its anonymous posting system, defective and ambiguous flagging methods and refusal to implement the internal safeguards that would properly monitor the website.

I urge you to better monitor the "erotic services" section of the Craigslist website. Erotic services, for the most part, means prostitution. Prostitution means that women and children are for sale. Representatives for Craigslist have repeatedly stated that Craigslist works effectively with law enforcement once a violation has been discovered, but this is not enough, preventative measures need to be taken. (See September 7, 2006 NBC.com article at: <http://www.nbc10.com/news/9804887/detail.html>). Children are continuing to be exploited and stricter internal monitoring efforts must be implemented, either through internal staff or a contracted company.

Craigslist can do more than offer a canned warning, an ambiguous monitoring policy and a defective flagging button. The law as it currently stands makes prostitution of people not only illegal but itself a form of trafficking and thus a channel of modern day slavery. See Trafficking Victim's Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. 7101(b)(2). Craigslist could become a global leader against sex trafficking, instead of one of the many agents through which pimps and traffickers set up business.

I hope that Craigslist can join us in a resolution for the new year-- resolution that honors and values the lives of women and children. If a **resolution of intent** to embrace and implement these values is ignored, I will proceed in boycotting your site as of January 1, 2008. We will then ask colleagues, friends and strangers to do the same. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this social issue that daily, more and more people are becoming aware of.

Sincerely,

Name _____ City, State _____

Date _____