



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MOSI Partners with Tampa Police Department to Become SAFE PLACE for Hate Crime Victims**

Tampa, Florida – When MOSI ([mosi.org](http://mosi.org)) completes its renovation November 18<sup>th</sup>, it will be opening its doors to the diverse Tampa Bay community by becoming a TPD SAFE PLACE ([tampagov.net/police/safe-place](http://tampagov.net/police/safe-place)) for hate crime victims. It will become Tampa's first major attraction venue to partner with the Tampa Police Department (TPD) on this initiative.

The mission of the TPD SAFE PLACE Initiative is to provide the community with easily accessible safety information and safe places throughout the city they can turn to if they are victims of crime. While Tampa has a below-average hate crime rate TPD shares that many of these crimes go completely unreported.

According to Detective Robin Polk with the TPD Major Crimes Unit, "We are thrilled to have MOSI be the first major attraction to come on board with us." MOSI's location close to the University of South Florida's campus and its future location in downtown Tampa make MOSI a good strategic fit for the program."

"We are so proud to be a TPD SAFE PLACE partner," said MOSI Chief Operating Officer Rob Lamke. "While learning at MOSI, the community can also learn through SAFE PLACE awareness, that we as a community will not tolerate hate crimes aimed at any group or person." He continued "A program like this makes sense for our venue, our guests, staff and the community. Anyone who seeks solace at MOSI can be assured that if they are a victim of an attempted crime or harassment, police will be called and our operations staff will attend to their safety."

The timing to launch this could not be better for MOSI. "With our grand re-opening scheduled for November 18, 2017, all of us at MOSI are focused on creating a community-based culture and super engaging guest experience, Lamke explained. "I hope all venues in Tampa will support this important community initiative."

According to Polk, "Other partners are welcome. The Tampa Police Department will train your staff, supervisors, managers, teachers, volunteers, counselors, and/or students, at no cost to become a participating member."

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For more than 35 years, The Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) has been offering programs to all in the Tampa Bay community that focus on a variety of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.