

## **Proclamation for Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, the United States was founded upon the principle that all people are created with the unalienable right to freedom, and added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is modern-day slavery, claiming nearly 40 million victims worldwide, and found in the United States most often in the form of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, and debt bondage; and

**WHEREAS**, this horrific crime, which denies human dignity and freedom, and fuels organized crime, exists in our nation, our state and our own community, and

**WHEREAS**, even though awareness of this crime is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to its isolating nature, the misunderstanding of its definition, and the lack of awareness about its indicators; and

**WHEREAS**, increased community education on how to identify victims of human trafficking along with increased knowledge of local resources and services for those affected by these criminal actions can help restore freedom and dignity to identified survivors, as well as help diminish the number of future victims; and

**WHEREAS**, every business, community organization, faith community, family and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not made by forced labor; by working to protect our young people from sexual exploitation; by addressing the problem of internet sex trafficking and pornography; and by becoming more aware of the problem and possible solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of \_\_\_\_\_, joins The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery and \_\_\_\_\_, in their dedication to providing community outreach and education, legislative advocacy, training, promotion of services to survivors of human trafficking, and collaboration with law enforcement; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby proclaim the month of January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness month, and encourage all our citizens to become more informed on this growing problem, to be vigilant and report suspicious activity, and to work towards solutions to end trafficking in all its forms in our community. If you see something that doesn't look right, take action and call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.