



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern slavery that occurs in every state, including California, wherein victims are forced to work in various forms of labor exploitation including, but not limited to, commercial sex acts and other services that are induced through force, fraud, or coercion; and

WHEREAS, due to its isolated and discrete nature, many individuals across the globe are unaware that trafficking exists in their communities; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 28 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking victims face a cruelty that has no place in a civilized world. It is a crime that can take many forms, and one that tears at our social fabric, debases our common humanity, and violates what we stand for as a country; and

WHEREAS, increased education about how to identify human trafficking along with increased knowledge of in-state resources and services for those affected by criminal exploitation can help decrease the number of future victims; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force is committed to using all applicable laws and resources for investigating human trafficking and prosecuting those engaged in it; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force has worked diligently to bring awareness to the fact that human trafficking occurs closer to home than one might think, that California ranks number 1 in the country for reported human trafficking cases, and that Santa Barbara County is home to hundreds of survivors of trafficking and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the critical role all Santa Barbara County residents play in preventing, reporting, and adjudicating these heinous crimes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors declares January, 2023, as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Santa Barbara County.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 24th day of January, 2023 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



Paul Williams

Supervisor - 1st District

[Signature]

Supervisor - 2nd District

Joan Hartman

Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob Weber

Supervisor - 4th District

[Signature]

Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST: *Mona Reyesato*

Clerk of the Board