

***WHEREAS,** human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and is a crime against humanity that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of their freedom; and*

***WHEREAS,** human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained or exported through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and other methods of slavery; and*

***WHEREAS,** human trafficking affects as many as 21 million people worldwide, including an estimated two million children who are trafficked for child labor and sexual exploitation; and*

***WHEREAS,** human traffickers target men, women and children, both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals, isolating them from society and supportive networks, and exploiting them for personal and monetary gain; and*

***WHEREAS,** victims of human trafficking suffer emotional, psychological and physical horrors at the hands of their captors who instill fear to keep them enslaved; and*

***WHEREAS,** human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today, and is tied with arms smuggling as the second-largest international criminal industry; and*

***WHEREAS,** human traffickers view Florida as one of the most attractive destinations and transit points for their victims, and Florida accounts for the third-highest call volume to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; and*

***WHEREAS,** Floridians are committed to protecting the vulnerable and ending human trafficking through continued prevention, prosecution, education and awareness; and*

***WHEREAS,** Floridians are committed to sending a strong message to perpetrators that Florida is a zero tolerance state for all forms of human trafficking; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Greater Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force is committed to protecting victims' rights, and restoring their dignity and freedom; and*

***WHEREAS,** in September of 2015, the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation's Operation Pop-a-Smurf netted 25 arrests and rescued eight sex workers; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Greater Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force is collaborating with governmental and non-governmental organizations to combat modern-day slavery, also known as human trafficking, and to empower survivors through prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership in the Greater Orlando region;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando, Jim Gray, District 1 City Commissioner, Tony Ortiz, District 2 City Commissioner, Robert F. Stuart, District 3 City Commissioner, Patty Sheehan, District 4 City Commissioner, Regina I. Hill, District 5 City Commissioner, and Samuel B. Ings, District 6 City Commissioner, hereby do proclaim January 2016 as***

## ***“Human Trafficking Awareness Month”***

*in the City of Orlando.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** WE hereunto have set our hands and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this 11th day of January 2016.*

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Mayor Buddy Dyer

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Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1

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Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2

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Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3

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Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4

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Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5

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Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6