

WHEREAS, *children are our greatest assets; and more than 40,000 children are reported missing each year in the State of Florida; and*

WHEREAS, *Florida's children rely on public awareness to ensure their safety and reduce the incidents of missing children; and*

WHEREAS, *according to the National Center for Missing and Endangered Children, one in six endangered runaways reported to them in 2016 were likely sex trafficking victims; and*

WHEREAS, *intervening early with services that support and empower vulnerable youth provides a pathway to recovery from crime and abuse; and*

WHEREAS, *honoring the rights of recovered missing children, including the right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and*

WHEREAS, *the Orlando Police Department receives hundreds of reports per year of missing juveniles and they depend on a network of partners to locate these young people and bring them out of danger, including the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse, the National Center for Missing and Endangered Children, the Florida Department of Children and Families and Devereux;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando, hereby do proclaim
Thursday, May 25, 2017, as

“National Missing Children’s Day”

in the City of Orlando, and reaffirm the City’s commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all missing and endangered youth; and to express our appreciation for the community members, victim service providers and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice and peace.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this 25th day of May 2017.*