

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2011/18

Declaring January, 2011 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Contra Costa County.

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is the illegal trade in human beings for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor, a modern-day form of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is lucrative and the fastest growing criminal industry in the world; globally, it is tied with the illegal arms trade as the second largest criminal activity, following the drug trade, and uses violent and exploitive tactics to prey upon vulnerable members of our communities – especially women and children; and

WHEREAS, the crime of Human Trafficking violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic exploitation, control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Human Trafficking is wide-ranging, directly affecting foreign nationals as well as domestic men, women, children, and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, it is often the most vulnerable members of our communities who are victimized by Human Trafficking, with perpetrators exploiting that vulnerability for their own needs and gains; affecting an estimated 1.2 million victims nationally each year with over half of those being forced into the sex industry and 98% of those being female. There is wide agreement that nationally 1:800 trafficking cases is prosecuted indicating that Contra Costa County's 2009 number of 35 prosecutions translates into an estimated 28,000 trafficking victims; and _

WHEREAS, the County's Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative acknowledges that fighting modern slavery is a shared community responsibility therefore is working with numerous public and private agencies to establish the Zero Tolerance for Human Trafficking Coalition in order to strengthen the County's comprehensive response to this crime. This Initiative involves County Departments, law enforcement agencies, Asian Community Mental Health, Bay Area Legal Aid, Community Violence Solutions, STAND! For Families Free of Violence and numerous community based organizations and continuing to build its collaboration by linking with additional local, regional and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the County works to raise awareness so individuals will become more informed, and will take action to end Human Trafficking in their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby proclaim January, 2011 as HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH, and urges all residents to actively participate in efforts to both raise awareness of and to end all forms of human trafficking in our communities.

GAYLE B. UILKEMA

Chair,
District II Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor

MARY N. PIEPHO

District III Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF

District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: January 18, 2011

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy