

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

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2022/28

In the Matter of Proclaiming January 2022 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Contra Costa County.

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of abuse in which force, fraud or coercion is used to control victims for the purpose of commercial sexual or labor exploitation; that occurs in every industry and affects individuals of all genders, ages and of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a lucrative industry and the fastest growing criminal industry in the world; and uses violent and exploitive tactics to target vulnerable members of our communities; 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 U.S. citizens, and society as a whole; victims experience trauma, violence, manipulation, fraud and coercion at the hands of their traffickers. It is often the most vulnerable members of our communities who are affected by human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, as of from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, 10,583 human trafficking cases were reported nationwide to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, of those reports, the majority of cases were reported in California, and it is likely that statistics for calendar year 2021 will be similar based on recent historical patterns in the data. Contra Costa County is not immune to human trafficking. While underreported, over the last four years the Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition and several partner agencies including Community Violence Solutions, STAND! for Families Free of Violence, Bay Area Legal Aid, International Rescue Committee and Calli House, identified and served over 500 victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the County's Alliance to End Abuse acknowledges that fighting exploitation and human trafficking is a shared community responsibility and therefore has worked with numerous public and private agencies to establish the Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition, in order to strengthen the County's comprehensive response to human trafficking initiated by county departments, law enforcement agencies, and numerous community and faith-based organizations; and continuing to build its collaboration by linking with local, regional and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the County of Contra Costa is working to raise awareness so individuals will become more informed, identify ways their behavior contributes to a patriarchal culture that supports and tolerates the systemic abuse of vulnerable populations that include women and people of color; and take action to end human trafficking in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim January 2022 as HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH, and urges all residents to actively participate in the efforts to both raise awareness of, and end, all forms of human trafficking in our communities. During Human Trafficking Awareness Month, let us recognize the survivors of trafficking, and let us resolve to build a future in which no people are denied their inherent human rights of freedom and dignity. Let us make it known that human trafficking has no place in this city, this county, this nation or this world.

KAREN MITCHOFF

Chair, District IV Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS

District III 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, 2022

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: _____, Deputy