

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

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2023/16

Proclaiming January 2023 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of interpersonal violence in which force, fraud or coercion is used to control victims for the purpose of commercial sexual and labor exploitation, and occurs in many industries, affecting individuals of all genders, ages and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a lucrative and fast-growing criminal industry which relies upon exploitive and sometimes violent 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 abuse; and

WHEREAS, the impact of human trafficking is wide-ranging, affecting foreign nationals as well as U.S. citizens, and society as a whole and, though awareness and concern around this industry has grown in recent years, human trafficking is consistently underreported; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, 16,658 human trafficking victims^[1] were identified nationwide through reports to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, and California led all other states in reported cases of human trafficking, accounting for nearly 13% of all such reported cases; and

WHEREAS, the County's Alliance to End Abuse convened the Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition with the aim of strengthening the County's comprehensive response to human trafficking initiated by County departments, law enforcement agencies, and numerous community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Human Trafficking Task Force, jointly led by Community Violence Solutions and the District Attorney's Office, strives to proactively identify and provide services to survivors, investigate and prosecute all forms of human trafficking, and build capacity within the Task Force and the communities it serves to respond to and prevent human trafficking using a collaborative approach involving more than 35 multidisciplinary partners; and

WHEREAS, In Contra Costa County, from April 2019 through December 2021, 108 cases of sex and labor trafficking were investigated, 207 suspected victims of human trafficking were identified, and the District Attorney filed 42 human trafficking cases through the collaborative efforts of partners to the Contra Costa Human Trafficking Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County is working to raise awareness about human trafficking with the belief that a more informed public will better understand how behaviors can contribute to a patriarchal culture that facilitates and tolerates the systemic abuse of vulnerable populations, and will take actions to counter and prevent human trafficking.

[1] The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) produces what is widely considered the most comprehensive and reliable data on human trafficking in the United States. The 2022 and 2021 NHTRC data sets are not yet available, thus 2020 statistics are provided here.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Contra Costa County does hereby proclaim January 2023 as **Human Trafficking Prevention Month**, and urges all residents to actively participate in the efforts to both raise awareness of and prevent all forms of human trafficking. During this month, we recognize the survivors of trafficking, and commit to building a future in which no person is 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.

JOHN GIOIA

Chair, District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor

KEN CARLSON
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 17, 2023

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: _____, Deputy