



Proclamation

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. It is also the second fastest growing criminal industry in the United States;

WHEREAS, human trafficking endangers the lives of millions of people around the world, and it is a crime that knows no borders. Human trafficking networks operate both domestically and internationally, and although abuse disproportionately affect women and girls, the victims of this global tragedy are men, women, and children of all ages;

WHEREAS, the efforts by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing bodies to promote the observation of "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in January of each year represents one of the examples of the ongoing commitment in the state of California to raise awareness of and to actively combat human trafficking.

WHEREAS, January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Advocates from Valley Crisis Center will be joining millions of American nationwide in recognizing the growing need to stop human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, we stand with those throughout the state of California who are working every day to end modern slavery, bring traffickers to justice, and empower survivors to reclaim their rightful freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Murphy, Mayor of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council, hereby proclaim January 2017 as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in the City of Merced and urge all citizens to educate themselves about all forms of modern slavery and the signs and consequences of human trafficking.

Signed this 3rd day of January, 2017.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced