

RESOLUTION NO. 4 - 2022

RECOGNIZING the month of January as “Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month”; and further **URGING** all Cincinnatians to do their part to end this heinous crime against humanity by being educated about the forms, signs, and consequences of human trafficking.

WHEREAS, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month was established in January 2010 proclaiming the right of equality and freedom inherent to all people, advocating for legislation that protects survivors and punishes offenders, educating leaders, and encouraging public awareness and action against various forms of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the actual act of trafficking is done through the recruiting, transporting, harboring, transferring, and receiving of persons that occurs when someone uses force, fraud, or coercion to cause another person to engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or a commercial sex act; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported a 98.66 percent increase in online enticement reports between January and September 2020 compared to the same period in 2019, and reports to their CyberTipline doubled to 1.6 million; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, due to school closings, stay-at-home orders, and hybrid learning resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, increased online presence by children put them at greater risk of child exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has the sixth highest rate of human trafficking cases, behind California, Texas, Florida, New York, and North Carolina, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Police Department Human Trafficking Task Force works with local community groups to provide a response to trafficking through coordination of services between nonprofits, education of community members, and collaboration between professionals at the government level; and

WHEREAS, community members who suspect or have information to assist victims of human trafficking may call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888, Text INFO or HELP to the BeFree Textline at 233733, call 911, or contact local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati is committed to educate the public, promote awareness, and disseminate research findings to the general public, professionals working with

at-risk populations, and professionals engaged in research about consumers, traffickers, and trafficked persons; and

WHEREAS, fighting human trafficking is a shared responsibility and takes each of us doing our part by being educated about all forms, signs, and consequences of human trafficking, and working together to end this heinous crime against humanity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize the month of January as “Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month” to educate the public about the forms, signs, and consequences of human trafficking.

Section 2. That the Mayor of Cincinnati and Cincinnati City Council hereby urge Cincinnatians to learn about the forms, signs, and consequences of human trafficking, and work together to end this heinous crime against humanity.

Section 3. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council, and copies be sent to Margaret Mitchell, YWCA, 898 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, Kristen Shrimplin, Women Helping Women, 215 East Ninth Street #7, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, and Woodrow Keown, Jr., National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, 50 East Freedom Way, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202.

Passed: January 20, 2022

Jan. Middlebrook Kearney
VICE-Mayor

Attest: Nicole May
Acting Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Victoria Parks