

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month (also known as Human Trafficking Awareness Month) was established in January 2010 by President Barack Obama to proclaim the equality and freedom inherent to all people, to advocate for legislation and protections for survivors, to educate leaders, and to encourage public awareness and action against various forms of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, all forms of human trafficking pose a grave public health concern to our communities as victims frequently suffer physical and mental abuse resulting in physical, sexual, and psychological trauma; and

WHEREAS, today, millions of men, women, and children are forced into domestic servitude, forced labor, and the sex industry; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can affect anyone, regardless of race, religion, occupation, educational level, culture, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, people of color, youth and young adults, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants and refugees, and those made vulnerable through socioeconomic barriers, homelessness, and disability are disproportionately affected; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle invests over one million dollars in a comprehensive network of social services, values survivor leadership, and reaffirms a commitment to a specialized criminal justice response to human trafficking that addresses the needs of survivors and holds perpetrators accountable; and

WHEREAS, annually hundreds of human trafficking clients receive advocacy, counseling, flexible client assistance, shelters/housing, and therapeutic services because of the City of Seattle's investments; and

WHEREAS, to change belief systems and practices that support the exploitation of some for the benefit of others requires the participation and commitment of the entire community, as well as the integration of the wants and needs of survivors to improve service delivery and inform policy; and

WHEREAS, reducing demands and profit margins for human trafficking, especially in the realm of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), requires accountability for those who solicit sex; and

WHEREAS, the Sex Buyers Intervention Program (Johns School), facilitated by the Seattle Municipal Court and the Seattle Human Services Department, aims to reduce the demand for commercial sex by educating men arrested for soliciting sex about the reality of prostitution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is striving to become a place where human trafficking does not exist, where people have opportunities available to them so as not to fall into financial vulnerability, and where all people are treated as fully human and worthy of fair pay, safe

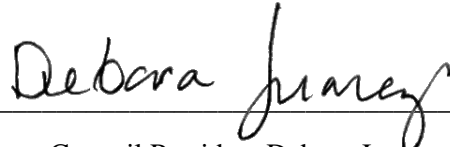
working conditions, and freedom from human rights violations.

THEREFORE, THE MAYOR OF SEATTLE AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM
JANUARY 2023 TO BE

Human Trafficking Awareness Month



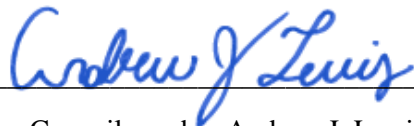
Mayor Bruce Harrell



Council President Debora Juarez



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



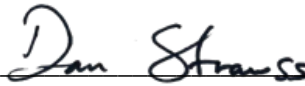
Councilmember Sara Nelson



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss