

**LOCAL PROCLAMATION TO  
DESIGNATE Fond du Lac, WI  
AS AN ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUPPORTER**

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of every shred of personal freedom; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation, involuntary servitude, and other types of mental and physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers target impoverished and marginalized children, women and men, isolating them from society and supportive networks and exploiting them for personal and monetary gain; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today, and is tied with arms smuggling as the second largest international criminal industry, falling only behind the illicit drug trade; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations' International Labor Organization has estimated that at least 27 million adults and children worldwide are currently in forced labor, bonded labor, or forced prostitution; and it is estimated that more people are now harmed by Human Trafficking worldwide than have been at any other point in human history. Approximately 80% of the victims are women and girls, and 50% are younger than age 18; and

WHEREAS, we recognize these individuals as *victims* in need of rescue, support and assistance; and

WHEREAS many victims trafficked into the U.S. do not speak or understand English and are unable to communicate to seek rescue. Under U.S. law, any person under 18 involved in the commercial sex industry is considered a Human Trafficking victim; and victims include U.S. citizens and documented immigrants; and

WHEREAS we recognize that Wisconsin is a site location for Human Trafficking because it is a hub for major national and international transportation, has a port city for shipping, is a culturally diverse state; is a state on the friendly border of Canada, and borders on the state of Illinois

WHEREAS, human trafficking is modern-day slavery, a practice that is in direct opposition to the fundamental principles of liberty and human rights upon which our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Once ratified, it officially outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude except as punishment for a crime; and

WHEREAS, Although the federal government and the State of Wisconsin have enacted laws to prosecute human traffickers and protect the victims of human trafficking, traffickers use techniques to keep their victims enslaved that severely limit self-reporting and that require broad public awareness of human trafficking issues for enforcement and prevention to occur; and

WHEREAS, the people of Wisconsin, regardless of political persuasion, creed, race, or national origin, stand together with the global community to protect the fundamental freedoms and rights of all persons, to fight the proliferation of human trafficking in all of its forms, and to assist survivors of modern day slavery; and

WHEREAS, the township/city of **Fond du Lac, WI** stands committed to protecting human rights and individual freedom by eliminating human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the township/city of Fond du Lac, is a designated Fair Trade city; and

WHEREAS, the township/city commends the work of the WI Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium for its statewide efforts to end human trafficking through education, advocacy, and assistance to survivors and to increase coordination and visibility of the state of Wisconsin's commitment to end human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **City Manager Joseph Moore**, do hereby proclaim July 12th of each year as: Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the township/city of **Fond du Lac**, in addition to recognizing that January 11<sup>th</sup> of each year is the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, also recognized to raise awareness about the signs and consequences of human trafficking, to promote opposition to human trafficking in all of its forms, and to encourage support for the survivors of human trafficking throughout the State of Wisconsin and across the world to put an end to this criminal activity and restore freedom and dignity to its survivors.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(SEAL)